





PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH

Sara A. Underwood, First Prize. James Buckham, Second Prize. Annie D. Kellar, Third Prize, David Talmadge, Fourth Prize. E. W. E. Thompson, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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Theo Staples, eldest daughter of the senior partner of Staples & Stilton, publishers, was called by the family the odd one, as she had psculiar ideas on many things. She was a very lovely girl of twenty-three, and desired to enter her father's publishing house to learn the business—more as a means of aiding working women than for any other reason. Her father reluctantly allowed her to do this, and his young partner, Ambrose Stilton, took a great fancy to her, though he could see that she disliked him. Oliver Norman, a foreman in one of the dapartments, however, attracted her in an unaccountable manner, and they became friendly on account of their peculiar tendencies; they were able to read each other's thoughts, and this led to experiments tried at Theo's home, in which all the family were interested. Oliver Norman was an invention in a little room which had been partitioned off for him, at the publishing house. Ambrose Stilton, being furious at the popularity of Norman with the Staples family, and his own ill success in winning the regard of Theo, decided to develop his known tendencies toward hypnotic influences, and did this with such good effect that as a result of his influence over Theo she decided to leave the office for a time and accompany the family to Newport. There she regained her normal tone, and one evening while alone on the beach she heard a voice calling her name. Recognizing the voice as that of Oliver Norman, she at once knew he must be in trouble, and the following morning started for Boston, where she met Norman on the Common.



OU here, Miss Staples," he exclaimed almost joyously. "I thought you were at Newport -but how providential! I wanted your advice so much, but I could not yenture to take the privilege of writing you."

Theo regarded him steadily. "Do you know," she said, "I have the feeling that you are in some great trouble! If so do let me know how I can help you."

"Oh, Miss Staples. I am a ruined man," he cried, "and I don't

understand it at all."

"Sit down here and tell me all about it." said Theo sympathetically, making room for him on the bench.

"Last Saturday night," he began as he obeyed her, "before locking up I gave one or two little finishing touches to my model which was about ready to send on to Washington; then I locked the door of my little room carefully. That evening Mr. Stilton paid me my weekly dues. He had sent for me to come up to the private office as your father was out. The firm's check-book was on the desk and he filled out my check and handed it to me. Then he spoke to me about my forthcoming work and the estimated cost of getting it out, and suggested a cheaper form of cover. I didn't quite understand, and he said he would run over to the building department and get a sample of the cover to show me, and asked me to remain in the office until his return, which I did. I found a book of yours on the desk and occupied myself in looking it over, and didn't even notice that the check-book lay on the desk until after a longer absence than seemed necessary, he brought the sample and caught up the check-book with some remark as to his carelessness in leaving it exposed. I told him no harm was done as no one had entered the room since he left and I had not noticed that the book was left."

"Well, what has all this to do with your ruin," prompted Theo, "I don't see yet."

"Please bear in mind all these particulars, Miss Staples, and you will see that a chain of circumstantial evidence has been found against me that is very hard to break," he continued. "Monday morning I went to take a look at my machine model and it was gone! Not that alone, but every scrap of drawing which had to do with it, and I am not sure that I can ever remodel it. You may be sure I felt blue enough all day Monday, and to add to the mystery, about eleven o'clock on that day, a messenger boy came saying that a gentleman wished to see me at once at the Revere House, room twenty-seven. I was so eager with hope that this message had something to do with my missing model that I hurried out immediately without leaving word as to where I was going, and wh'n I arrived at the Revere House, went at once without inquiring of the clerk, to room twenty-seven, and found it vacant. A cham-

ber-maid told me that it had been vacant two days while some repairing was being done. I felt as if I was in some nightmare dream, and felt still more so when yesterday your father came to me in an excited way bidding me follow him to the private office. There I found Stilton and the paying clerk of the bank where the firm has its deposits, and all three of them began accusing me of having forged the firm's signature to a check of three hundred dollars which the paying clerk had received from me on Monday, at 11.30 a. m., paying me in exchange that sum. The clerk declared that the person he paid it to wore a coat and hat like mine; that he didn't look particularly at me as he was so familiar with my appearance, and the check was made out in my name, but that on looking at the bungling imitation of the firm's signature he thought best to consult them as to its genuineness and both declared it a forgery. And Mr. Stilton recalled the fact that he had left the check-book on the desk Saturday when I was there alone long enough to fill out the blank check numbered the next following the only check I had of the firm for my week's wages—a check which I had not found time to cash. Then where was I, Mr. Stilton asked, when he sought me on Monday at 11 a. m? The men said they saw me snatch my hat and coat and leave the soom hurriedly about ten minutes before and it was nearly noon when I returned. When I told of the message to meet an unknown man at the Revere House, and saw that I had no way to verify my statement, I did not wonder that Mr. Stilton sneered at my statements and that I was then and there dismissed from the firm's employ until I could explain things. Last night I could not sleep, I walked the streets all night long. I longed inexpressibly to see you. Oh, what am I saying? Pardon me, I am nearly insane!" He covered his face with his hands and groaned.

"Did you cry 'Theodora, Help,' last night?" she asked gravely.

"Oh, pardon me! How could you know? I did! I did! But I was in agony," he moaned. "Well, I heard the call on the beach at Newport at ten o'clock last night-and I am here to-day in response to that call. You know that when we experimented last winter, twice you succeeded in sending me into a mesmeric trance, and I told you of things concerning others of which neither of us at that time knew. but which we found to be true. Now it is evident that there is some conspiracy afoot to ruin your prespects in life, and I think since I was made to hear your voice through space so distinctly, that I can be made use of in this way to discover who is at the bottom of all this trouble. I am going home now. I will call on my friend Miss Leon, who sometimes assisted, you remember, at our psychic sittings, who is trustworthy and deeply interested in the phenomena and will be glad to be present. At half-past two this afternoon call at the house and, see if you can put me into the mesmeric state and note what I say during the trance."

A gleam of hope irradiated Norman's pale

"Was ever a woman so graciously good!" he said in an awed tone, "surely the unseen powers which I believe govern this universe will join forces with you to help an innocent man! I will be there at the appointed time."

Theo found her friend at home, and when the matter was explained, exceedingly anxious that the experiment should be tried. She herself would take notes.

When Norman arrived at Theo's house everything was ready for the experiment. He took from his pocket a small flat key, apparently a trunk key of the Yale patent.

"I found this," he explained to the young ladies, "just inside the door of the room where my model was kept. Whoever stole it apparently tried several of a bunch of keys before he found a key to unlock the door. In his hurry this apparently dropped on the floor unper ceived. Now it has been proved over and over again that anything like this, frequently in the hands of the owner will bear about it for the time psychic traces of the individuality of such owner. So I brought it hoping it may aid in the discovery of the thief."

Of the three present Theo was apparently the least excited. Although she was perfectly passive, Oliver Norman was himself so nervous that it was sometime before he could concentrate his will sufficiently to gain power over his subject. Presently, however, Theo was under control.

Oliver placed the key tremblingly in her hands and asked: "Will you try to find the owner of this kev?"

There was a long pause, then in a strange, low voice Theo answered:

"It was a tiresome search—this Spanish look ing man is so secretive. He hates yet smiles upon you."

"Why does he hate me?"

"Ask the gift of God, when awakened." Miss Leon, taking down notes thinks this a foolish answer.

"When did the owner of the key lose it?"

"When on the Sabbath, hate and jealousy mastered his soul, and possessed of many keys he would destroy the work which might make you his equal socially, nay, in some minds might make you his master."

"Did he destroy the model, or will he take a

patent by-and-by?"

"In low tide walk as far as safety allows neath the pier at City Point Beach, you will find model-rusty."

Here Oliver took from the passive hands the key and put into them the check yet uncashed for his last week's wages. He waited a little in an apparently quiet mood before he resumed his questions.

"Can you find the mate to this check, 609? Who got it cashed?"

"We see the dark-browed one making passive Paul Dubray in bindery. With hat drawn over brow-coat and hat like yours-studied by dark one. Check No. 609 made snare-hypnotized note written to messenger office to call you to Revere House—Oh, ask Theodora to look at blotter mark in book of poems-evidence will be given. While you were called in one direction, serpent-face sent his fascinated one to bank to personate you, in opposite way-he followed to make sure his power. Make him prove alibi from 11.15 A. M. Monday to 12 M. Remember to try coat and hat on Paul Dubray to see how like you-Power gone-wake her

In obedience Oliver Norman made the ne sary passes to arouse Theo. She looked around with a dazed smile.

"Did I sleep—was it a failure or success?" she asked eagerly.

Miss Leon took it upon herself to answer. "Well, maybe you and Mr. Norman can see sense in what you said when under influence, but to me it all sounded like nonsense, but here, read my notes for yourself."

Theo read them slowly sloud with increasing surprise at each succeeding statement. When she came to the description of the person who took the model she flashed a quick glance of intelligence at Mr. Norman.

"Oh," she exclaimed, "do you think this can be true? I never dreamed of him-and yet-The memory of Ambrose Stilton's recent proposal recurred to her on the moment and she colored with confusion.

"So you recognize the description, do you?" queried Miss Leon with lively curiosity.

Theo turned to Norman. "Do you?" she asked.

"I suppose we both do, but until something can be proven perhaps we had best speak no name if your friend will excuse us for the present," he replied; "but if it should prove true, I must confess that he is the last person I should have mistrusted. Do you know any reason why he should hate me?" he asked Theodora suddenly.

"How should I know?" She said evasively, yet she could not prevent the tell-tale blood from dying her cheeks as she spoke. Oliver marked her confusion but he controlled his voice to say:

"Dare I ask you both to go with me as soon as possible to City Point? In an hour the tide will be at lowest ebb; it looks like a wild goose chase but if there is anything in it I would like you two as witnesses."

To this Miss Leon and Theo readily agreed. Then Oliver called Theo's attention to the sentence, "Ask Theodora to look at blotter in book of poems."

A look of intelligence came into Theo's eyes. "Oh, yes, I wrote a note to papa and used one of several blotters on the desk. I think I put either that or some other blotter in the book to mark something Elsie Brown had under-

Theo searched for the book and opened it where a blotter was inserted. The first side showed only a few words of her note to her father; the other side interested her and the others much more. Over and over the firm's signature was written and rewritten in all sorts of apparently intentionally blotched penmanship. Just below these repetitions of the signature there appeared the ink marks of several lines of a letter with signature. "Paul-at the old place, Saturday evening, June-Keep free of excitement-I wish to hypnotize-new experiment-pay as usual-Stilton."

"You are better acquainted with this man "You are better acquainted with this man than I am, Miss Staples," said Oliver. "Had you any knowledge of his hypnotic power?"

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet. you any knowledge of his hypnotic power?"

Theo's mind had been startled as she recalled the strange influence exerted on her for several weeks before going to Newport, by the presence of Stilton. She saw it all now, he had tried his hypnotic power on her with considerable effect, but she only replied:

"Not until this moment, but I recall things now which make me sure of it."

As the three rode over to South Boston, they formed themselves into an amateur detective force, arranging a plan by which to get at the truth, Miss Leon being taken into full confidence as she was to act as witness.

It was at the lowest ebb of tide that they arrived at the pier, and the girls watched with deep anxiety while Norman slowly waded out as far as possible. Finally they saw him stoop, grope about, then bring to the surface something which he held up in triumph toward them, and as he came nearer Theo saw that it was the lost model.

Theo did not return to Newport that night, nor did she think best to speak to Mr. Staples when he came home, about the events of the day. In her possession was the key found inside Norman's work-room, and early on the following day, accompanied by Miss Leon, she

went to the Publishing House. She was glad to find Mr. Stilton alone in the private office, She led the conversation to the loss of Mr. Nor-

man's model. "I wonder," she said, "if the model was taken after Mr. Norman left Saturday. How late did

you see it in his work-room, Mr. Stilton?" "I was not incide that room for a week pre-

vious to its disappearance; I had no call to be," After a little further conversation Theo said with an air of sudden recollection as she held

out the key: this key? It was found on the premises and some one may miss it." ome one may mass it."

He took it from her and examined it. "Why,

it is the key of my secretary," he said with surprise. "I missed it yesterday. Where did you find it?"

"I didn't find it Mr. Stilton," said Thee, Mr. Norman found it inside his work-room 110 31 Monday morning." "It's an infamous lie," he cried, forgetting

himself.

out the key:

"Miss Leen here is witness to your claiming the key as yours," said Theo, significantly, "Good morning, Mr. Stilton," and they went out quickly, to wait in the parlor of the Parker House, Oliver Norman's report of his own success as detective.

Oliver remembered Paul Dubray as a rather simple minded Canadian who worked in the bindery. He was about the same build as himself, he recalled, but how he could be mistaken for him by the cashier, he could not understand. He called at the bindery and took a good look at him before interviewing him, and he saw that the lower part of Dubray's face was strangely like his own in shape merely. He was startled too, to observe hanging near him, a coat and hat identical in color and shape with those worn by himself on working days. He went to the foreman of the depart. ment where the fellow worked and found out from him that Dubray had been absent from his work during all the forenoon of the day on which the forged check was cashed, Armed with these facts, Oliver walked with decisive air straight to Dubray.

"Where did you buy that coat and hat?" he demanded.

The man looked up in surprise. "Oh. my good friend, Mr. Stilton, made me a present of them. He makes me many presents." he said with a proud smile.

Oliver perceived at once that this man was not a willful villain.

"O yes, I understand," he said pleasantly. 'He tries experiments in mind-reading on ya -you are his subject?" "Why yes, but how came you to know?" Du-

bray asked. "That was our secret and I was not to tell any one, but I suppose he told you." "Were you with Mr. Stilton last Monday?"

"Yes, we met at the -- House; you see he is finding out things for a cousin of his who is a doctor, and he says I am so good a subject that he would rather have me than any one

"Do you remember anything that occur when you are hypnotized?"

"Sometimes; not often, though."

"Did you go anywhere else with Mr. Stilton Monday, than to the — --- House?"

Norman remembered the -- House as a small, third-class affair near the bank. "No, I generally come out of the trance very

soon, but I was so tired that day that Mr. Stilton left me at the Hotel to get rested. He always pays well for my time though." "Well, I want you to go on an errand with

me. I have asked the foreman's permission, and I will pay you well for your time. Put on your hat and coat at once." Norman was startled when he looked at him

fter he had donned these garments. Certainly Dubray would be easily mistaken for himself for the hat concealed the upper part of his face and head where the strong points of difference lay. They went at once to the Bank and

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them. I give it up."

good, doubtfully.

"Then you wouldn't write?" said Mrs. Love-

"Write! What for?" said her husband.

"Write to a woman? What's the use of writ-

ing to a woman? If you want to write, write

to a doctor. The first question in sickness is

not a question of sex but a question of medical

ability and qualifications. There's no sex in

medicine anyhow. If you want to write why

not write to a man of medical standing, a spe-

cialist like Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y.

You know he's a regularly graduated doctor.

You know he's a good one and at the head of a

great medical institution. You know he's had

thirty years' experience, and has, with the aid

of his staff of nearly a score of skilled special-

ists treated more than half a million women,

who freely confided in the integrity of the man

and the skill of the physician. President Gar-

field once said of Dr. Pierce: 'He is one of the

best men in the world, and he is at the head of

one of the best medical institutions in the

world.' There's nothing new about this free

consultation by letter, my dear, it has been a

feature of Dr. Pierce's practice for years; in

summoning the paying clerk to the window. he asked him if this were not the man to whom he paid the amount demanded by the forged check. He was so struck by the resemblance that he declared that it might be possible.

"I was hurried at the time," he said, "but I noticed Mr. Stilton here at the same time, on the opposite side of the room, and as you and he went out together I was sure it was you."

Then Dubray was taken to the close by and recognized as having come there trequently in company with a man whose description tallied with that of Stilton, and as having been there several times on the previous Monday. When, still accompanied by Dubray, Oliver Norman entered the parlor in the Parker House where Theo and Miss Leon awaited him, they both cried out in astonishment at the resemblance. Norman, as he entered had observed two gentlemen acquaintances of his own and had desired them to wait for him. After mutual explanations of the success of their morning's work, the young ladies proceeded homeward, and with his gentlemen friends and Dubray, Norman called for a private parlor, where with the young Canadian's consent, Norman hypnotized Dubray and in the presence of witnesses; a full account was obtained from the subject, how he had personated Oliver at the bank, drawn the money for the forged check which money he gave to Stilton, who accompanied him at a little distance so as not to lose hypnotic control.

There was no trial of Ambrose Stilton. Mr. Staples was too honorable a gentleman to keep in partnership with such a treacherous person. Fortunately his house was doing so well that he had already been approached by a wealthier man who wished to go into the business; and as soon as Stilton's capital was withdrawn that of the new partner replaced it.

When Oliver Norman's invention was patented and applied, the house did a still better business.

When a year or two later Norman's book had made him widely known as an authority on Psychology, Theodora became his wife. She never went back to the printer's case, but she remained the friend of all working women. and is still active in organizing all sorts of schemes for their uplifting and enlightenment. THE END.

THE UNFINISHED ATTIC.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT BY JAMES BUCKHAM.

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DO wish you would have a floor laid in the attic, Henry," said little Mrs. Harding to her husband. "It is such a ticklish job walking on the beams, when I want to store something away. I am in constant dread of stepping off and going through the plastering."

"It wouldn't make much of a hole if you did, Allie," laughed her husband. "But I must confess that the job ought to have been done long ago, and it would have been, if I

could only remember to speak to the carpenter. But I'll do it this week, sure as the world. I don't see why the builders ever left that attic without a floor. Of course, you can't walk the beams when you want to put things away. It's absurd. Just remind me, every morning when I start out, and perhaps I can think to speak to

Mrs. Harding did remind her husband, faithfully, every morning, when he stooped to kiss her good-bye; and still Jepson, the carpenter came not. Whenever Mr. Harding remembered his commission, something else, very imperative, made it impossible for him to see Jepson; and when it would have been perfectly convenient to do so, he never thought of it. And so the unfinished attic continued to go without a

The Hardings lived on the very outskirts of the suburbs, in one of those trim, shingle-jacketed little houses, so like a jaunty woman in a new tailor-made suit. They were fully a quarter of a mile from a neighbor, on a street not yet accepted by the city-a street as crude and unsightly as a great shallow trench cut through the fields. And yet, there on the very edge of the scrub-oaks they had all the modern conveniences-except an attic floor. The contractor had shaved his outlay a little and augmented his profits by slyly omitting that; and it wasn't discovered, or fairly appreciated at least, until the Hardings had bought the house from the land company and were in possession.

They were a fairly well-to-do young couple, prosperous and contented, and their house and its furnishings showed it. Taste and thrift and modest luxury looked out from every widepaned, crystal window. The parlor was a little bower of satin, lace and Turkish rugs, and the dining-room had a set of solid mahogany furni-

THE TRUE STORY

OF THE

Confiding Woman, the Cynical Man and the Bearded Lady.

The scene is a comfortable sitting-room. Mr. Lovegood is buried in a book and his wife is scanning the advertisements in the evening paper. Suddenly Mrs. Lovegood says: "Say! dear," in a voice that makes Mr. Lovegood almost drop his book. "Well, what is it?" he says with a laugh. "Another real genuine bargain offer?" "I don't know that you'd call it that," his wife replied. "But, yes, you might," she continued, "for it is a bargain offer of free medical advice." "Let's hear all about it, my dear," said her husband. "But you know I'm a little dubious about your bargains. Your 'swans so often turn out to be geese.'" "Well then, it's an offer by a woman (physician) to give free medical advice by letter, and it says it's better to write to a woman because a man can't understand a woman, just because he's a man, and it says too that it's just revolting to fact, for more than a quarter of a century.



Lovegood stopped because she was out of and no string tied to it, so to speak."

"I bet you," said her husband, "that the advertisement don't say she's a woman physician." "Why, yes it does," said his wife, as she looked at the advertisement again. "Well, no, I guess it doesn't say she's a physician, but it means the same thing for it says that 'it is a woman whose experience in treating woman's diseases is greater than that of any living physician, male or female." Mr. Lovegood chuckled and said: "That's what I love about you, my dear. You are so ready to believe without question when there's a bargain in view. If you were a little fish, I'd catch you every time with a rubber worm if I put a bargain sign above the hook."

"Oh! do be serious for once," cried Mrs. Lovegood. "Then, to be serious," he replied, "this woman doesn't claim to be a physician. She would claim to be a physician if she could, because she is trying to convey the impression in every other way than by a direct claim that she is a physician. She is not therefore a physician and can never have practiced medicine. Yet not being a physician and therefore never having practiced medicine, she claims to have had 'experience in treating woman's diseases, greater than any living physician.' Now the question is, since she never practiced medicine, where did she get that experience?"

"Weil, that is so," Mrs. Lovegood somewhat reluctantly admitted, "but then she is a woman." "I'm not so sure about that even," said her husband. "It looks to me as if some man was 'working' the women with the 'bearded lady' act.

"But suppose it is a woman there's your dressmaker, who is also a woman, not to speak of Mrs. Flannigan, the cook's mother, who is a really excellent woman. If a woman's not a doctor then one woman's as good as another and it's foolish going to a stranger hundreds of miles distant for the sympathy which friends at home can better supply. And as for a man not understanding women's diseases because he's a man, that is the cheapest sort of claptrap. Who have done the doctoring in the past two thousand years? The men. Where must the modern woman physician go for her knowledge? To schools taught by men and books written by men. If this woman, who claims men don't understand woman's diseases. should ever take to the study of medicine, she'd have to be taught everything she knew by the men who don't know anything according to

go to a man physician anyhow." And Mrs. | Write to him because you'll get the best advice

silver wedding gifts. If a burglar should peep in at the dining-room window! With this dreadful thought in mind, Mrs. Harding not only drew the curtains of that room, every morning when her husband started for his office, but put the choicest of her silver into a carpet-bag and hid it in the remotest corner of the attic. In order to do this, she was obliged to step from beam to beam for the entire length of the house. No wonder she longed for an attic floor, though she had grown almost as daintily expert in her beam-walking as the airy lady who sways on the slack rope at the circus.

Nineteen-year-old Nora in the kitchen, Mrs. Harding felt, was no protection against the always-haunting burglar; and yet it was a comfort to have somebody in the house with her. She would really have preferred to do her own work; but it would have been dreadful to be "all sole alone" there, on the edge of the oaks; so she had engaged Nora, chiefly for company.

It was a bright, crisp morning in February when the long-expected actually happened. A burglar walked coolly into the remote pretty house, in the middle of the forenoon, when nearly every able-bodied male resident for miles around had been swept "in town," like steel-filings toward a magnet. Indeed, so bright and cheerful was the sunlight, and so homelike and familiar and reassuring everything about her, that Mrs. Harding found it hard to realize she was actually confronted by a burglar, even after he politely, but firmly asked to be accommodated with such portable valuables as might be in the house. He carried a big sack under his arm, and might have been a junk-collector, for aught that outwardly appeared. It is so difficult to even imagine a burglar, divested of the mysterious and awful circumstances of night, dark-lantern, and revolver.

Mrs. Harding was just returning from the attic, whither she had, as usual, borne her carpet-bag of silver, when she met the burglar coming in at the front door.

"Come with me, then," she replied, calmly, when she had learned his amazing errand. always put my silver up-garret for the day," she added, frankly, making room for the burglar on the stairs, and signing with ladylike self-possession, that he should precede her. "Of course, you will not expect me to bring it to you, but I will show you where it is. Turn to the right, please, and at the end of the hall you will find the attic door.'

Could it be possible, she asked herself, that this woman, speaking thus without a tremor, and coolly directing a real burglar to her precious wedding gifts, could be timid little Mrs. Harding? Yet she was conscious of a prickture, while the sideboard groaned with solid her opinion. The problem is, how a man who ling sensation all over, and knew that it was | But to return to the unusual professions.

only because the terrific excitement ran so doesn't know anything about women's diseases can teach a woman to know everything about deep, that it lacked the ordinary and expected manifestations.

All the while her quick wits were playing in scintillant flashes about the problem, how to outwit the burglar. She was conscious of a secret and crafty delight in the thought of the floorless attic; though not until the burglar stood hesitating before the gridiron of beams, did the invoked inspiration come to her.

"There is the bag, at the end of the attic," she said, stopping, with her head just above the top of the stairway. "You must get it, if you want it. I am not telling you a falsehood. The silver is in the bag."

The ring of truth was in her voice, and not even a burglar could doubt it. The man hesitated no longer, but stepped confidently forward across the beams. Then did Mrs. Harding's suppressed inspiration explode in sudden action.

"Now then, Tiger! Take him!" she exclaimed, sharply. "Sic, boy sic!"

It had been one of Mrs. Harding's maiden accomplishments to bark and growl like her pet dog, greatly to that creature's excitement; and now a perfect volley of most startling realistic yips, snaps, and curdling growls crackled at the burglar's heels. He started, twisted convulsively upon the beam, toppled, swore, and plunged downward with one heavy foot and leg clean through the snapping lath and plastering!

Down darted Mrs. Harding to the hall below with the swiftness of a bird. She flew to her room, and with feverish haste tore the corded belt from her morning wrapper. Then back into the hall again, where the burglar's leg was swaying helplessly, like an animated and very ugly chandelier, from the shattered ceiling. In an instant the plucky little woman had reached up and tied the belt around the burglar's ankle. Then she hung down upon it with all her might, and screamed for Norawho was already screaming herself in the lower hall.

"Run for help, Nora!" cried Mrs. Harding. "There's a burglar in the house, and I'm holding him!"

With a horrified gasp at her mistress' temerity. Nora was off for the nearest house. By a rarely fortunate coincidence, the grocer was just delivering an order there, and bidding Nora keep on to the drug store, and have them telephone for the police, he drove his horse like a whirlwind to the Harding house. Bounding up-stairs two steps at a time, he found the exhausted but determined woman still successfully resisting every attempt of the trapped burglar to draw his leg up through the ceiling.

"Let me take charge of the critter now. ma'am," panted the grocer. "Don't be afeard. The police will be here soon. By George!-excuse me, ma'am-but you're a brick!" And he looked admiringly at Mrs. Harding, who not only did not faint, but started promptly for the clothes-line, that the grocer might tie the burglar's leg to the banister.

While they were doing this, Jepson, the carpenter arrived. Mr. Harding had spoken to him that morning, and he had come to take measurements for the attic floor. So there were three men-including the burglar-in the house when the two policemen arrived, making in all quite a little male colony for a remote suburb, at noonday.

A little later, Mr. Harding arrived in hot haste. First he hugged his wife, and then he hugged himself. "Ah, Allie!" he said, complacently. "What if I had been cursed with a reliable memory."

THE USUAL WAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNIE D. KELLAR.

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HE Library Association must raise money if the Library were ever to become a reality; so, having heard that the "unusual" fad succeeded elsewhere in collecting stray dimes, the feminine population of Blount severally took up the Unusual Professions for Women.

Blount is small in size, but large in the spirit of progress and the tireless energy which is the natural birthright of every

Westerner. A mining town, situated in a green valley of the Rocky Mountains, it is held in communication with the Range by a sixmile line of railroad, over which the men and boys every work-day morning are carried to their work in the mines and returned at evening.

By day then in the valley you find a community of only women and children; for those men not at the mines go to the cattle ranches below, excepting the mayor, postmaster, editor and grocer and he is just one all-around

One women declared herself family tonsorial artist and her husband sat for her to experiment upon his classic countenance and to draw—full price. Another gave out to hold flower auctions every Saturday. One proposed this and one that unusual thing and everybody was pleased. Clearly the Public Library was by all reasonable means what everybody meant to have.

Then it was too had that Maude Harper Then it was too bad that Maude Harper should fall upon such an un-reasonable "profession" as she did. Mrs. McReady went farther and said "unmaidenly." Mrs. McReady was the social leader in Blount and of course knew. Trust her for that!

Miss Harper announced herself under the head-line of "prices reasonable," as "dog-killer, cat-killer, etc.," concluding in the third line, "until further notice." The Blount Beacon kindly published free all advertisements.

er, cat-killer, etc.," concluding in the calline, "until further notice." The Blount Beacon kindly published free all advertisements in furtherance of the good cause, and this unfeeling announcement led them all at the top of the page. It was quite too much! So Mrs. McReady, in her handsomely-furnished diningroom, expressed herself as she glanced at the paper before her.

"Monstrous! To think of killing cats and dogs!" and her hand went forth in caressing gesture toward her own lovely Duke stretched out on the mat. "I shall protest, and so will all the right-seeing women. The Humane Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals must take steps."

must take steps."

Hereupon she rose and, in illustration of her closing words, walked majestically from the room. Left alone, the other occupant of the room laid aside his paper and crossed over to examine the article that had aroused the indignation of his brother's wife. This interested young man was Harold McReady, who, at twenty-three, was junior partner in the firm of McReady Bros., whose large mining and ranch interests were constantly increasing. He lived interests were constantly increasing. He lived at the ranch and had come in that morning on a matter of business.

His idle curiosity was excited to know the

ame of this "young woman, pretty and good," so described by another of her sex while in a most uncomplimentary mood. He felt that she must be quite out of the common. Glancing at the name, he put down the paper in a business-like way, and, with his brother, set off for the ranch.

Mrs. McReady was a veritable type of that class of short-sighted women who leave their class of short-sighted women who leave their homes and children mainly to the care of the servants and leave no detail of a public work to pass unnoticed. Bearing out the latter statement, she was within the next half-hour, in virtue of her office as president of the H. S. P. C. A., giving orders for a special meeting of that society.

The secretary ventured a remonstrance in

that society.

The secretary ventured a remonstrance in Miss Harper's behalf. But the president while impressed with Miss Harper's personality must perform her duty, and that evening the little milliner received the following letter:

"Miss Harper, Dear Madam:—It being the sense of this society that we can not stand idly by and permit or encourage the wholesale slaughter of dumb companions toward which humanity is enjoined ever to be merciful, we respectfully urge that you appear before this society on Wednesday at four p. m. to show just cause for your extraordinary course in directing the minds of your townspeople to the killing of their domestic pets, etc.

etc.
"Meanwhile we demand a stay of proceedings in your new line, and your 'further notice' to that effect in Wednesday's Beacon.
"With every expression of personal esteem,
"Yours for the protection of birds and beasts."

H. S. P. C. A.

Maude had had a good day at her new trade and was in high spirits as she made out her library account that evening; seven chickens and three snakes, beside the mouse that Mrs. Smith caught in a trap and couldn't kill. And an order for a cat to-morrow.

Then she read her letter. Her face was a study in the red and white that blended at last in a healthy pink color as the emotions gave way to reason. A line of defense as long as a lawyer's plea arranged itself in her mind and at length resolved into a very wise plan.

The next day she killed the cat as per order. Noon of Wednesday came and with it the Beacon. Eager hands tore it in their haste to point out the "further notice" which, however, was not there. So the members went early to the Society's rooms to hear her defense.

Maude stood at her shop door thinking how Maude stood at her shop door thinking how hot and dusty it was and wondering how Editor Taylor could think of the twenty-mile drive he started upon two hours since. She looked at her watch. The hands pointed to four. Her cheeks flushed and tears suffused her eyes so that she hardly discerned the form in the road before her sending up a cloud of dust. At last she made it out, and with an outcry sprang back into the shop. She had never seen a mad dog, but that galloping figure in the dust she knew for one. Not a man in town to give the alarm! She snatched something from beneath the counter, paused an town to give the alarm! She snatched something from beneath the counter, paused an instant for self-control, then on her wheel sped after the rabid beast. Women had seen their threatened danger and she saw them tearing into houses and barring doors. Straight ahead moved the cloud until the pursued and the pursuing were but a block apart. Then the dog turned south and Maude turned in the same direction, hoping to course half way around the square and meet him before he reached the corner, and struck into the schoolhouse road now filled with children on their way home. way home.

Unnoticed, their movements were watched in

Unnoticed, their movements were watched in agonizing suspense by a horseman from the south, more desperately, if possible, making for the corner and shouting as if wild.

For he saw what neither had, as yet, a baby playing in the road. He gave the child up for lost just as the wheel dashed in and faced the brute. "She can not escape, herself," he thought, as he cocked his revolver and spurred his horse again, "but in the time so dearly gained I can save the boy."

An instant later came the report of a revol-

gained I can save the boy."

An instant later came the report of a revolver, but it was not his. The dog fell dead, and Harold realized that he would have been too late to save his brother's child.

All unconscious of her baby's peril, Mrs. McReady neared home. The meeting had been dismissed early as Maude was noted for punctuality, and it was decided that she meant to ignore orders. A committee would wait upon her.

upon her.

Mrs. McReady heard the report and hastened to the scene. Her gratitude, remorse and sense of her own narrowness cannot be described. Maude stayed for tea, and Harold told how, out at the ranch, horses and cattle had been bitten, and of the stampede that followed. He left his men shooting the miserable animals while he rode after the dog.

That evening Mrs. McReady forced a fifty-dollar banknote into Maude's hand, in trust for the library, quoting from the contract: "All gains derived on or before November first of this year, from the exercise, investment or appreciation of these unusual measures are pledged perpetually and without reservation to this Association." So Maude entered in her book after the date: "From Mrs. James McReady in appreciation of one dog killed McReady, in appreciation of one dog killed this Wednesday at four o'clock P. M., fifty

dollars."
One month after, Harold surprised Maude by saying abruptly, "I am strictly a man of business. I have known you but part of a day. Your deeds prove you courageous and magnanimous, your tears prove you womanly. You are not nervous or superstitious for you will kill cats. Your style of beauty and manners just suit me. You know something of my prospects. In short, Miss Harper, I love you. Will you marry me?" She thought he had gone crazy until he added, "That was the speech I refrained from making a month ago, only that you might have an opportunity of only that you might have an opportunity of finding whether you could care for me. Maude, what is my answer?"
"I am a woman of business," she tried to say steadily, "and you know the appreciation clause of my contract."
"But Jeanned over to the library!"

"But I cannot be handed over to the library!"
"No—at least, I hope not," and then, blushing furiously, "there will be the ring."
"Will be! oh—" but she stopped him there and it was settled to defer the matter until af-

ter November first.

A few months later the sound of brass bands mingling with a most whole-souled charivari in true western style proclaimed this train of circumstances to have culminated in the usual

IN THE DARKNESS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY DAVID H. TALMADGE.

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ARRY Dugan lay on his back in the long grass and winked at the stars. How long he had been there he knew not. He remembered vaguely the wild rush across the open towards the Spanish block-house in the face of a withering fire; and he remembered how the man in front of him had dropped, throwing up his hands as if astonished; but beyond this memory was a blank. What had happened? Had

he been shot? Or had his mind gone ahead of him in the excitement of the charge, owing to the inability of his legs to keep pace with it? This seemed reasonable, the more so, because so far as he was able to judge his body was simply tired; he felt no pain such as he had understood was felt by the wounded-nothing but a sense of the utmost fatigue and contentment that he could lie and rest undisturbed.

"Praise hivin," said he aloud, "thoo yez've come back agin! Oi wor wantin' to think a

He was addressing his consciousness, which to his disordered vision appeared as a soldier without body or limbs, its uniform flapping ridiculously as it circled dizzily above his head.

"What wor it now," he asked perplexedly, "thot Oi wor wantin' to think av before yez come whin Oi wor winkin' at the stars? Who am Oi anyhow? Will, will, will!"

He laughed softly, and attempted to sit up, but was too tired.

but was too tired.

but was too tired.

"Oi'm not knowin' at all what me name is—
mebbe 'tis Gin'ral Shafter, Oi dunno, and
there's a woild search goin' on this minute to
foind where Oi am."

foind where Oi am."

He lay with his eyes closed for a time. When he opened them again the bodyless soldier was gone. He uttered a great sigh of relief.

"Tis gone back to where it belongs, behoind me eyes," he thought; "now Oi'll be thinkin' what it or Oi wor wantin' to think."

Then he groaned, for with full consciousness had come pain. A light wind stirred the branches over his head, and he felt its cooling touch upon his face. Somewhere—it seemed to him it might come from the sky—he heard the voice of a sentinel challenging.

voice of a sentinel challenging.
"'Tis some poor felly givin' the password to hivin," he decided after listening intently.
"Oi wonder now——."

hivin," he decided after listening intently. "Oi wonder now——"
Suddenly he became aware of a rustling in the grass a few paces from him. Then he distinctly heard a moan. It was very dark there in the wood—a darkness which the stars seemed to intensify, and the sound was not an inspiriting one to a boy who was barely past the age of belief in ghosts. There was the suggestion of a tremble in his voice as he softly called:
"Hillo. there!"

of a tremble in his voice as he softly called:
"Hillo, there!"
In response came another moan.
"Say somethin', can't yez?" he called again, louder and with a note of terror in his voice.
"If yez be somebody Oi can be talkin'a bit wid Oi wants to know it quick, and if yez be somethin' ilse Oi wants to know it quicker. Till me what yez be now thot's a good felly!"
The grass rustled again, and there was a sound as of some great fish, freshly caught, floundering.

floundering.
"Holy mither," exclaimed the boy, "'tis com-

in' this way!"

He essayed to rise, but was unsuccessful. He managed however to lift himself upon one elbow, and thus he waited, his eyes straining and his breath coming in gulps. At length the sounds terminated in a thud close beside him. "Brass buttons!" he ejaculated, breathing

more freely.

"Who moight yez be now, old felly?"
"My name," came the reply weakly, "is Price,
of the 89th....." of the 89th-

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The revelation was not completed. Price was evidently in the last stage of exhaustion.
"Gerald Proice av Middletown?"

"Gerald Proice av Middletown?"

"Yes; and who are you?"

Larry did not reply. Memories were surging through his brain now—memories that were bitter—of a girl with blue eves and light brown hair whom he had loved honestly; and of a rich man's son who had enticed her in hersimplicity to follow him, leaving the humble lover forlorn and desperate. After a time the bitterness seemed merged into pity for the girl, and then everything passed from his mind but consciousness of the pain in his back. He lay there many minutes, counting involuntarily the throbbings, and looking at the stars with staring eyes. The voice of Gerald Price aroused him.

"And who are you?" it repeated.
"Oi—Oi don't roightly know," replied Larry,
"but O'm thinkin' me name's Dugan."
"Larry Dugan?"
"Yis."

A long, long silence.

"I'm about finished, I guess. Will you tell me what's wrong between you and Molly Burke?"

"And the loike av yez ask thot?"
"I do, for I wish to know."
"Yez!"

"Yes, I; for I know the poor girl is almost broken-hearted over your coldness towards

"Oi—Oi thought yez had taken her from me."
"I never thought of such a thing. I never

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DUNDEE RUBBER CORPORATION, 184 Fulton St., Chicago.

spoke to her before the day she came to our office because she—she was in trouble on account of money matters. I—I helped her, and she was grateful. She—"

she was grateful. She—"
"Yis, she walked wid yez on the strate and
smoiled on yez, and Oi froze her, for Oi wor
hot and unraysonable wid jilousy. And she
wor innocint!"
"As innoces."

"As innocent as a child, Larry; and she loves you I am sure."

"As innocent as a child, Larry; and she loves you I am sure."
Larry was sobbing.
"And—and Oi lift her widout aven tillin' her good-boye. 'Tis a riptile Oi am, and squirmin' wid agony at the thought av it! Oi'll be goin' to her—Oi'll be goin' to her—O''
The pain in his back was like the cutting of knives and the seering of hot irons now. The bodyless soldier was again circling above his head. It rose and sank—sank down and down until he felt its icy touch upon his forehead. Then it rose higher and higher, out of his sight. Price crawled closer to him, speaking. There was no reply. He found a cold hand and clasped it tightly.
"Heaven forgive me for that lie," he muttered, and fell asleep.
They found them there in the morning. The face of Larry bore a look of infinite peace, but the face of Gerald was drawn and distorted.
"One," said the sergeant, "was shot in the spine, and his death was painless; the other was wounded in the breast. Poor chap, how he must have suffered!"

A SON OF THE GODS.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT BY E. W. E. THOMPSON.

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E paused irresolute that morning at the threshold of his fate; there in the September sunrise with the purple vintage of vine clad hills all about him and the glorious river murmuring on and on about his feet. Had it been two or ten years since he had asked the beautiful but unsophisticated black smith's daughter to become his wife? Each

day, each hour she had taken on the richer, deeper tints and the sweeter fragrance of the unfolding rose.

Isabella, her dear old-fashioned mother had christened her-one loved to speak the name slowly, reverently, the name of this wildwood flower-even now robing herself for the bridal. The world to her an enigma; a path of thorns as yet untrod by tender feet. "Is-a-bella," he repeated the name to convince himself that this was no ignius fatui of the imagination. His was a remarkable voice! As the name, her name died on the morning air it grew faint and fainter still in that breath of agony, felt, but indescribable!

Years ago when he had first known this girl-

Years ago when he had first known this girl—he was only in the formative state. She responded, not to the soul senses of his being, but to some kinship in nature. He reasoned not beyond his love for physical perfection. As he swiftly ripened by contact with the busy world, of which he would be an important factor, the self-imposed thrall galled him.

Leland Langsdale is a picture, a study, and a problem. A moment ago he paused, reflected, hesitated. Now at the marriage altar he holds her hand—lsabella's—repeats the vows—they sound like distant echoes in ears unsensed to sound. Her face is radiant! He is hers, hers forever! A chain round his heart, a ring on her finger. He is touched deeply by her supreme confidence in him. His splendid dark eyes respond to hers with a half sad, a half tender smile. God helping him he will make this little girl happy! Perhaps her heart and brain will respond to his more masterful personality.

Isabella Langsdale has been twenty years a

"Mother," says a girlish voice, "read father's speech! The papers are full of it! Colonel Trent says in his editorial:

rent says in his editorial:
"'No such masterful and eloquent argument
as ever been presented at our Bar. We note "No such masterial and eloquent argument has ever been presented at our Bar. We note with pride the growing fame of our fellow citizen. As a candidate for Supreme Judge he would hon——;"
"Nonsense, Lela! Why waste time on newspaper editorials? Your father is spoiled now by flattery. What is vanity but a beggar's staff?"

"What, indeed!" sighed Lela Langsdale.
Isabella Langsdale is not changed. The association of twenty years with a superior mind has unavailed. The omnipotence of clothing the body instead of the soul ruled her. Sometimes surprised, sometimes frightened at the deep lines which had worn into her husband's face. He spoke to her always of late with a broken voice. What did it mean? Presently to Lela:

broken voice. What did it mean? Presently to Lela:

"Your father has given us every reason to be proud of him. The toil and moil of life is not interesting to me." She bent lower over a fichu of rare lace. "Have you forgotten Miss Collon's musicale and the Rand reception Thursday afternoon and night? Our position is something as well as your father's!"

A vision! His face—her husband's—glorified with a patient resignation. In that moment she saw down into the depths of two existences that should neverhave been moulded into one. "Less Fame and more Fortune—more Pleasure." The mother spoke in a manner which troubled her daughter.

"Your father has a natural hatred for society. I wish I could be free to live as I believe in living—"

ing—"
"An empty life," returned Lela, who was jealously fond of that father whose presence to her was sunshine, happiness and overmaster-

ing joy.

The reply was a laugh as evanescent as the broken wing of a butterfly. She recalled her husband's words: "Fashion is fleeting, Isabella; beauty of soul is eternal, the same

through all ages." More and more lately bad he felt that need of sympathy which was want-

ing in his life.

Leland Langsdale had tried to love, cherish and make happy this woman—his wife. Sometimes he felt that his soul was growing attenuated in her presence. There was no sensation of things spiritual or intellectual in her atmosphere. He had borne this terrible disappointment silently, bravely in the past; so would he bear it patiently in the future.

Thursday night. The Rand mansion was ablaze with light; the jewels of fair women shone proud with the presence of noble men. Strains of music float from arch, doorway and bower. Voices have a happy ring. Faces smile. Leland Langsdale's tones alone are deep and grave. He rouses himself with a supreme effort. "This is folly! I must go and hunt Lela." Madame Rand speaks: "I have been looking for you." Her keen eyes reading the misery in Langsdale's soul. "It is dreadful not to know what to do with people—Cousin Jaqueline is here and she never would assimilate with the crowd. Do we disturb you?"

She approached a slender figure clad in black, standing reading by a side light.

"Miss Herse, the Major's warmest friend, Mr. Langsdale. I trust you will find something in common."

The hostess swept away with a bland smile. The figure in black bowed, then was silent.

"Prof. Lloyd's Editorpha, have you read it?" Duty impelled him to break the silence. "That is a wonderful book. I am reading it a second time."

A wave of color swept over Jaqueline Herse's ing in his life.

Leland Langsdale had tried to love, cherish

A wave of color swept over Jaqueline Herse's

A wave of color swept over Jaqueline Herse's face; she was warm yet with the enthusiasm of that story. Langsdale compressed his lips. Here was a woman with soul! One who felt something of the life around her!

His own care-worn cheeks glowed. He was lost for a moment in thought. Then he talked to Jaqueline Herse with an eloquence which startled and interested her. "In the scheme of human conditions the master condition of all' is that inward something which calls for symhuman conditions the master condition of all' is that inward something which calls for sympathy on the part of another. "The gust that blew love's candle out" may change to some favoring wind, reviving the flame, causing it to glow and burn indefinitely. The horizon had lifted—there was a ray of light as they stood there discussing a story which had vibrated and thrilled through the soul of each. For that brief hour pettiness, selfishness, falseness, convention;—the tears of "Some divine despair."

"Some divine despair."

had all at once become wreathed in smiles. Leland Langsdale was enjoying that hour—the years had dropped away!

The life blood of an intensely human heart

years had dropped away!

The life blood of an intensely human heart had all at once come back to him! Had the development of his doom been for a moment suspended? The music, the revelry of the dancers, awakened him from reveries intellectual, conversation congenial. Jaqueline's face had more than once lighted up gloriously at some word fitly spoken. Formally, gently, he said good-night and sought his daughter.

Never had womanhood seemed so sweet and precious to him as it did now. Sympathies had been awakened he thought long since dead. Miss Herse had given indication of deep and hidden feeling. Feeling which had in it no trace of sentimentality. How congenial his toil in the after days! He had shut his heart long ago, he thought, to human affection, yet never for a moment disloyal to his wife. He had been ever on his guard against wounding her, yet the inner chambers of his heart were empty as sounding echoes.

In his office the next day was an unbidden guest. One hour's experience had so unconsciously ungirt him, the long-suffering, self-confident man drank of infinite gladness. a gladness he dared not grasp. Work, hard work, had brought success. He had won battles over himself. But, ah! a new and silent foe, a strong adversary—who would win?

As family lawyer to the Rands he remembered that he had heard of Jaqueline Herse and some trouble that she had had about an estate. Should there be a tangle about it Mr. Rand would consult him. He unreasonably hoped that Jaqueline Herse would never cross his path again.

hoped that Jaqueline Herse would never cross his path again. The stress of a life pain lay heavy upon him.

The stress of a life pain lay heavy upon him. With these thoughts he went to Court that day to defend a murderer. Such a speech on the theory of self defense had seldom been heard anywhere! The Jury, as a man, responded, won to every sentence! He broke the lock and key of his own pent up feelings, pouring them into the cause of his Client. To-day he fought as he never had fought before for a fellow mortal's liberty!

"Choose Leland Langsdale as counsel. Your

mortal's liberty!

"Choose Leland Langsdale as counsel. Your case is complicated. Three suits will be necessary. Better see him without delay."

Jasper Rand's wish must be Jaqueline Herse's law. There was no reason for refusing as counsel the great lawyer whom she had barely met. One whose probity and capabilities were so widely acknowledged. Silent for a moment, then she advanced to her cousin.

"I am grateful Cousin Jasper, but per-

"I am grateful Cousin Jasper, but per-

"No perhapsing about it," broke in this intensely practical man. "I promised your father to guard your interests. We'll bring things out all right my little kinswoman. I—I—loved your mother Jaqueline; you are very like her." Jasper Rand with an effort continued: "We're going to win on the cause and

like ner." Jasper Rand with an effort continued: "We're going to win on the cause and the merit of our lawyer, Jaqueline. He carries everything before him."

Full of girlish simplicity was Jaqueline Herse—a strength, too, that resisted this fascinating personality, Leland Langsdale, for her legal adviser. Just then there was a war of voices outside: "Edmonds acquitted! Langsdale's speech would have cleared any man!" Why should these words strike Jaqueline Herse like a blow? Why indeed! The words riveted themselves on Jasper Rand's mind. "Yes, we will have Langsdale. I will go now and bring him in for consultation!"

She was alarmed at her own feeling! Yet why avoid a man who could never be anything to her? Well under control she held herself when they came in. Langsdale trembled a little, yet with the air of one determined to get through this examination, allowing no outside thoughts.

thoughts.
Leland Langsdale touched Jaqueline's heart and soul as never touched before—with a sanctified touch that none but her God should ever know. This man with the patent of nobility upon his brow was the husband of another woman. She would never suffer herself to love a man she had no right to love!

to love a man she had no right to love!

That night she cried out: "I will not impoverish the story of my life by any unworthiness of mine!" and fell fainting on her pillow.

.

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Eight months later Leland Langsdale in his office yielded himself to thoughts introspective and retrospective. "Going away to-morrow. My God, how can I let her go! In my adversity she came; in my soul's bitterest hour; since then the accidental nearness of her presence her filled my best with low."

presence has filled my heart with joy."

His head sank and he moaned aloud! He roused himself:

roused himself:

"She will come to-day for settlement. But no, her uncle is ill." Had not her face been pictured on his brain and heart forever?

A footfall sounded! He met Jaqueline Herse calmly—she was a part of his life but—ah, she must never know! He must not forget himself in this coating interview. George the trusted caimly—she was a part of his life but—an, she must never know! He must not forget himself in this parting interview. George, the trusted servant of the Rands attended her and waited in the ante-room. His "Sorrow's crown of sorrow" would indeed be in "remembering happier things." He felt the "Mella Miseria" of his wailing soul come up from the brink of the stream on which he stood.

He held the contrary tendencies of his nature well in leash. He would rid himself of the potent charm of this woman's presence.

Cousin Jasper was to have attended to all this; Jaqueline hated the details and formalities of law. Her claims against Thurston March had all been allowed, every suit gained. "Where do you go Miss Herse?" He would purchase the length of her presence there by some conversation.

"To South Carolina for the winter; then to England." How her heart leaped as she answered him. "I thank you for myself and for Cousin Jasper."

She stepped forward, laid the roll of money, Leland Langsdale's fee, won the table.

Cousin Jasper."

She stepped forward, laid the roil of money, Leland Langsdale's fee, upon the table.
"Pray keep the money Miss Herse!" he cried impatiently. "I could not take it!" His sorrow, his love, was about to break its bounds! "Mr. Rand has placed me under obligations to him and his that I never can repay. This service to both of you was a pleasure—let it be un-marred by thought of gain!"

"I thank you!" said Jaqueline Herse in a voice hoarse with emotion.
"Take this money—if not for yourself, for some one who needs it—"
She was going now. "Stay!" he cried, "Miss Herse—Jaqueline—we we must say farewell!"
Reverence and sorrow was commingled in his

Reverence and sorrow was commingled in his tone. "Pardon, pity me! I—O God—I have tried to hold fast to my duty! You—you have helped me! Helped me—as—no—other woman could—and—would; for—this—God bless and keep you forever!"

In another moment Jaqueline Herse was gone!

They found him the next morning his head prone upon his office table! A smiling face, the lines of care and pain gone. For tired heart, brain and hands no farther catastrophe! He had passed to that country where pure is found and not lost!

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to smoke."

The remedy is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette flend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. The remedy is called Tobacco Specific and a free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co. 284 Glenn Building, Cincinnati O. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.



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WRITTEN FOR COMPORT.



HE greatest interest has centered over the occupation of the Philippines by our army. At first our people were disposed to believe that the to believe that the restoration of peace would cause all trouble in the archipelago to cease and that soon a form of government would be given the Filipinos better than anything that had ever been

given the Filipinos better than anything that had ever been enjoyed by them; and that whatever might be the final disposition of the islands our people would not reliquish them until their citizens were able to act as a strong modern government. It has never been supposed for a moment by extremists that the United States could drop these islands or even attempt to give them back to Spain until some stable government had been formed capable of administering the law with home rule.

It has always been a strange fatality of savage or semi-civilized races to respect only strength. They invariably look on toleration and avoidance of war as timidity or cowardice. Since the Americans have been in Manila there has had to be a constant restraint on our soldiers to prevent outbreaks against the Filipinos, who little appreciating the real cause, became daily more arrogant and insulting, looking upon this self-restraint of our soldiers as timidity and fear of their own prowess. Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, undoubtedly has been aided with arms and ammunition from outside and has turned from an ally into an open enemy of the Americans. The fact that Gen. Otis has not allowed insurgents in Manila, caused them to locate their lines in a semicircle all around the city. Here in full view of our men they have thrown up forts and breastworks and have mounted cannon in an advantageous position. It is now known that Spanish officers have assisted them in the disposition of their forces.

The relations have been at a point of tension for weeks, but Gen. Otis, in command of our

Spanish officers have assisted them in the disposition of their forces.

The relations have been at a point of tension for weeks, but Gen. Otis, in command of our troops, undoubtedly had secret information of Aguinaldo's intentions, for events proved that his army was drilled and in constant expectation of a sudden attack. Thus matters stood on February 4th; the Filipinos inflamed and desiring to attack the Americans with pent-up anger waiting the first shot which would give them the opportunity to thrash the savages. Meantime, a Filipino named Agoncillo had been sent to this country by Aguinaldo and after remaining in Paris until our peace commissioners had returned home he sailed for this country. In Washington he had attempted to be recognized by the President and the State department, but had failed. The ratification of the peace treaty was to be voted upon the 6th. It is believed that the attentions paid this emissary had turned his head and that hearing but one side he believed the country was against the treaty, and that a designer are would cause Americane to resident and service at would cause Americane to resident and services at would cause Americane to resident and cause a margine to resident and that a designer are would cause a margine to resident and the ready, and that a designer are transfer and the ready and the target and the ready and the target and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target and the target and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target and the ready are transfer and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target are transfer and the ready are transfer and the ready and the target and

head and that hearing but one side he believed the country was against the treaty, and that a decisive act would cause Americans to raise a popular cry to abandon the islands.

Whatever his conclusions, there seems to be no reason to doubt that he cabled Aguinaldo to force a fight in order to influence the Senate, and after doing so took the quickest route for Montreal. It is also evident that though followed by secret service men, he was allowed to pass out of the country unmolested rather than to raise any possible international questions. His junta of natives remained in Washington and were allowed to stay unmolested provided they did no overt act as enemies of our government.

they did no overt act as enemies of our government.

On the night of Saturday the 4th, three Filipinos approached our outpost and once or twice ran by the guard, each time being challenged. At length after being commanded to halt, the guard fired at them killing one. This was the given signal for a general opening of fire from the Filipino entrenchments. All night the Americans held their position unable to tell where to fire. At daybreak the army was ordered to advance which was done with a rush. The Americans carried everything before them although a few of the most ignorant remained fighting desperately. Incredible as it may seem these were men armed with bows and arrows, as seen in the initial cut, who bravely stood up to be mown down like grass by the deadly machine guns. In every part of the field the Americans were successful, driving the poor Filipinos before them like rabbits, and sweeping them out of their entrenchments and forts in a rout. The American loss was forty-two killed and about



MAJOR GENERAL ELWELL S. OTIS.

one hundred and fifty wounded and missing, while the natives lost all of five thousand. After the first battle Aguinaldo's soldiers

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were in a demoralized state, and although their were in a demoralized state, and although their numbers gave them courage, the Americans steadily pushed them aside and continually widened their line of action. Aguinaldo, meantime, went through the farce of declaring war against the United States. In this campaign the losses of the insurgents have been terrible, while the dead and wounded of the Americans have reached a comparatively small number. It is probable that the Filipinos will break up as an army and will take to guerilla warfare among the mountains and jungles. This will mean a long contest. General Otis is pursuing Aguinaldo, hoping that with his cap-

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GENERAL EAGAN.

ture the backbone of rebellion will be broken. Major General Elwell S. Otis, the American commander, has been selected as the military governor of the Philippines, and will receive his formal appointment probably before the close of the present campaign. He has been in chief command of the military occupation of the islands since the departure of General Merritt, who was called to Paris to aid the Peace Commissioners. General H. W. Lawton, who distinguished himself in the Santiago campaign, has already sailed for Manila and on his arrival will relieve General Otis of command of the troops, leaving him free to act in his adthe troops, leaving him free to act in his administrative office.

At this time a few words about the insurgent

At this time a few words about the insurgent leader, Aguinaldo, may not be out of place. As a young man he attended the Pontifical university at Manila and was a bright student, but commanded no attention until 1888 when he committed the unpardonable sin against Spanish law in Manila of joining the Masons. Masonry is prohibited in the Philippines and under the ancient law a Mason is a criminal, it being lawful to truture or even execute him. being lawful to torture or even execute him. While he was not tortured he was annoyed in various ways by the authorities and finally went to Hong Kong, where he associated himself with a number of exiles. He studied military learning and passed months watching British and other troops drilling and manoeuvering. It is said at night he studied the lives and wars of Napoleon, Von Moltke, Washington and Grant with keen intelligence. By the time he left Hong Kong he was thoroughly familiar with this subject. Accounts differ as to his service; some saying he was a good soldier, others that he would never drill. Afterward he shipped in the Chinese navy and served under an American officer there for several months. being lawful to torture or even execu months.

There is little to be said about Cuba and Porto Rico, both of which seem to be entering into the process of reconstruction without much difficulty. The greatest annoyance is the attitude of the soldiers of the Cuban army, who expect the United States authorities to pay them the amounts due for back pay. As Gomez has undertaken to adjust this trouble, it is to be hoped it will soon be out of the way. A notable expression regarding the relations existing between Great Britain and our own country, is that which comes from Mr. Arthur There is little to be said about Cuba and Por-

existing between Great Britain and our own country, is that which comes from Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the treasury and government leader of the House of Commons, in a speech delivered at Manchester, Eng., last month, in which he declared that the greatest safeguard of peace was probably mutual comprehension and sympathy between nations.

There might be difficulties in realizing such a comprehension even among the most civilized.

comprehension even among the most civilized

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nations, he went on, but surely there was one country that was in every way fitted to under-stand and sympathize with Great Britain. There was a shower of applause when he add-ed that he need not say that he meant the United that he need not say that he meant the United States. Some foreign cynics professed to
believe that the existing relations between the
two countries were a growth of the moment,
depending upon a transitory community of interests, with the disappearance of which their
friendship would disappear. His observation
of the world had taught him that cynics were
always wrong.

During the dark days of the Venezuelan controversy, Mr. Balfour said he had expressed

STYLE 35

During the dark days of the Venezuelan controversy, Mr. Balfour said he had expressed the conviction that the time would come when all English speakers and sharers in Saxon civilization would be united with a sympathy which no political controversies could permanently disturb; and he was glad he now saw such sympathy established by the marvellous change in relations which for more than a century had been disturbed by uninterrupted discord. If that sympathy was of the character he believed it to be, there could not be a greater guarantee of the future peace, progress and civilization of the human race. The opinion of this progressive and scholarly English statesman meets with ready response on both sides of the Atlantic, and is in keeping with the general tenor of the public utterances of leading speakers in both countries.

The most important question that has been before Congress during the past month was that of ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain. It took precedence of every and all other questions. In the Senate and out of the Senate; through the press; in general discussion, it was the one absorbing topic.

The press of the country, with but a few solitary exceptions, urged senators to vote for raccontributed on page 9.)

Cured of Drinking

Woman's Secret Method Whereby She Cured Her Husband Who Was a Terrible Drunkard.

Mixed a Remedy in His Coffee and Food and Cured Him Without His

Help or Knowledge.

It takes a woman to overcome obstacles. Mrs. Chas. W. Harry, 920 York St., Newport, Ky., had for years patiently borne the disgrace, suffering, misery and privation due to her husband's drinking habits.

Learning there was a cure for drunkenness which she could give her husband secretly she decided to try it. She mixed it in his food and coffee and as the remedy is odorless and tasteless he never knew what it was that so quiekly relieved the craving for liquor. He soon began to pick up in flesh, his appetite for solid food returned, he stuck to his work regularly and they now have a happy home. Mr. Harry was told about his wife's experiment and he gives her the credit of having restored him to his senses. It is certainly a remarkable remedy, cures a man without his effort, does him no harm and causes him no suffering whatever.

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remedy to you, securely sealed in a plain wrap-per, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace. Send for a free trial today. It will brighten the rest of your life.

the rest of your life.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ESUVIUS is again at its frolics, and a mountain at its frolics is no pleas-antry to those who live at its base. The dwellers about the sunny Bay of Naples take no delight in the grandeur of an eruption of Vesuvius. For years there will be no rea-

there will be no reason for fear, the mountain will give no evidence of its mighty power, save as the cloud of steam above its summit testifies always to the heat within. Again, as at the present time, all its old craters will open with tremendous bursts of flame and flow of molten lava. It is a grand and terrifying spectacle. Great masses of rock are hurled hundreds of feet in the air and streams of lava flow down the mountain sides until they appear red with the burning material. During its quiescent periods the journey to the summit of Vesuvius is an interesting trip, seldom missed by tourists to Naples. At one time a railroad carried passengers nearly to the summit, but that has been destroyed by recent lava flows and one must take to mountaineering on foot, or on donkey back, the former being the more desirable if one will keep his mind in good order to appreciate the wonders at the top.

About two thousand feet above the sea the

summit, but that has been destroyed by recent lava flows and one must take to mountaineering on foot, or on donkey back, the former being the more desirable if one will keep his mind in good order to appreciate the wonders at the top.

About two thousand feet above the sea the roads lead over a spur of the mountain on which is built the Observatory, an illustration of which is shown in the initial, in which are the museum, containing the seventy minerals thrown out by Vesuvius, a scientific library and apartments for the scientific instruments, especially the electro-magnetic seismograph which records the time extent, and direction of every movement of the earth's crust. From the balcony of the Observatory one may begin to realize what an eruption means, for all about are the flows, ancient and of recent time, stretching away to the plain below. The flowing character of the molten lava, like the waves of the sea, or like eddies and pools in a river, may there be seen where they took their shape under white heat, but now are cooled to solid black rock. Around this spur of the mountain, in 1872, rolled two streams of lava leaving the Observatory like a lighthouse on a storm beaten reef, while the inmates of the house underwenta process of slow roasting, the mercury rising above one hundred and aeventy degrees Fahrenheit. Fortunately the fires abated before the endurance of the scientists was exhausted.

In some places during the ascent one passes small craters from which is flowing hot lava, which is dark and stringy and hardens on top as soon as it comes in contact with the air; and if one makes a misstep and plants his foot upon this seemingly solid earth he is reminded of the deceptive cruss of snow on our New England fields, with a difference of a few hundred deceptive cruss of snow on our New England fields, with a difference of a few hundred deceptive cruss of snow on our New England fields, with a difference of a few hundred deceptive the mind with a more intense leeling of awe than this great crack in the



its present site which was probably twice as large as the Vesuvius of to-day. With a mighty explosion which can only be imagined, the upper half of the cone was blown off, leaving a large valley surrounded by more or less precipitous sides, like the craters of Kilauea in Hawaii or Crater Lake in Oregon. Mt. Somma, the lesser peak of Vesuvius, is a remnant of this wall. After centuries had passed and the Greeks had, unsuspectingly, built their cities. this wall. After centuries had passed and the Greeks had, unsuspectingly, built their cities and vineyards on its sunny, green slopes, the fires returned to their old haunts and a new cone arose from the old valley, sweeping away the old walls, all save Mt. Somma, and building itself up to the height of three or four thousand feet above the sea. This was in 79 A. D. As the clouds of steam rose from the crater they were condensed in torrents of rain, which mingled with the black volcanic dust and rolled down the mountain sides, wiping off from the face of the earth three cities, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae. More than tighteen thousand people lost their lives. No

lava issued from the mountain at that time, but the excavations at Pompeii show that the cities were buried under many feet of volcanic dust and ashes. After this terrible eruption (which has been considered the greatest calamity of historic times), the mountain was quiet again for centuries. Its sides were covered with grass and trees as in the olden days and the old terror was forgotten. In 1631 came another great convulsion. The volcano sent out material with such force that vast clouds of dust and stones were carried for hundreds of miles, the finer particles falling to the earth even in the Adriatic and at Constantinople. Streams of lava dashed down the mountain sides into the sea and thousands of homes were destroyed. Since that time the mountain has never been entirely quiescent and the tragedies which it has caused are too many to enumerate. At each eruption the mountain is built up a little higher and the sea is forced out a little. The number of cubic feet of lava thrown from the mountain since 79 A. D., would be expressed with no less than twelve ciphers, enough in fact to build several modern cities.

The question is, where does all this material come from? Again we are confronted by a negative answer; again Mystery holds out its dim, grey finger pointing us on. All that the scientist can tell us is this: The interior of the earth is in an extremely heated condition; being subjected to great pressure it is a solid, superheated mass; the water percolates from the surface to a great depth and coming in contact with the heated interior, changes to steam and when it can no longer find room for its activity below, it forces its way to the outer world at the point of least resistance, carrying with it the solid hot rock which becomes molten lava when relieved of pressure.

Recently reports have come to us of the increased activity of Vesuvius, and the world will watch its movements with much interest, for it looks to Vesuvius as to a great actor. Whatever its action, it is always dramatic, grand, imposing

The National Bank Redemption Agency.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE United States Treasury has one sec-tion which is entirely devoted to the re demption of national bank notes, and this is called The NATIONalled The NATION-AL BANK REDEMP-TION AGENCY. This, although carried on within the walls of the Treasury build-ing, and in some ways closely connected with it, is, nevertheless, distinct from it. Its expenses are entirely paid by the banks the m selves, which are yearly assessed according to the amount redeemed for each one during the past year. From these assessments are

the past year. From these assessments are paid the salaries of the clerks, the stationery bill, and, in fact, every expense incurred by the Division.

To this Agency all the National banks, all over the country, send their worn out money, and have it exchanged either for new notes or for checks, as the sender chooses. Burned notes are also sent here, and are redeemed, should there remain the slightest mark to show what was their former value. The packages of old notes are given to expert clerks who sit in a long, narrow room, well lighted by large windows. Both doors and windows of this room are guarded by strong iron lattices; those at the doors fastening on the inside by a spring lock. In addition to these precautions against loss, a high railing within the room separates the desks from the aisle in which, alone, visitors are allowed inside the room. Most sight seers in the Treasury, however, are only permitted to peep at this work through the grated doors leading from the corridor.

In this room the money is counted with a rapidity which seems incredible to an outsider. Not only is it counted, but a counterfeit bill is instantly detected by these expert clerks, and removed from the package. Any failure to do this, or any miscount is charged, if detected, against the salary or the clerk. Each package is counted by three different clerks, and their accounts compared, before it is finally pronounced correct. Its number, amount, and some other information concerning it is then transferred to a slip of paper which is handed to the Chief of the Division. He signs it, and passes it on to a clerk in his room. This clerk registers the information in her book, and fills out a check for the required amount to be returned to the bank from which the worn out

out a check for the required amount to be re-turned to the bank from which the worn out

turned to the bank from which the worn out or ruined bills were sent.

The old notes are taken, still in original packages, and closely guarded, to the basement of the Treasury, and placed in the macerator, where they are speedily reduced, by boiling and chopping by knives, to a thick pulp. Of this pulp is made various fantastic forms, such as cats and dogs, which are sold as souvenirs to visitors to the Treasury.

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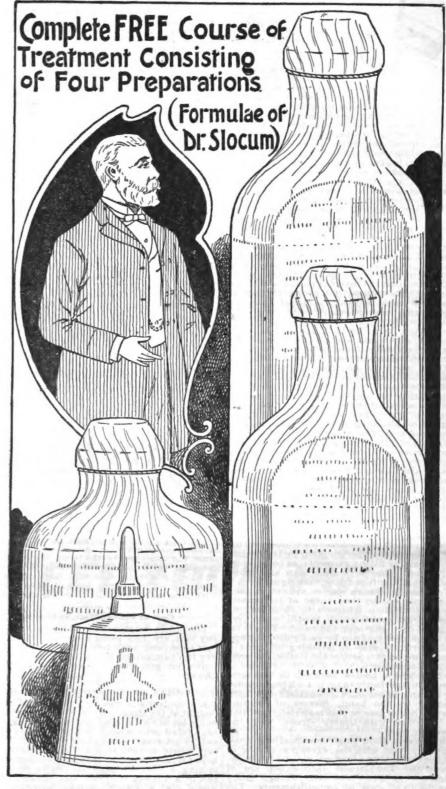
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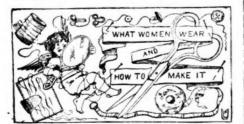
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SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY WORK.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AME Mode has des tined the plump woman to utter extinction, unless she can so disguise herself as to give at least a semblance of the swan-like slimness now considered so neces-sary. The newest

considered so necessary. The newest gowns are more sheath-like than ever, even the like than ever, even the bly. While this mode is especially graceful, the gown, built on these lines, is considerably more of an undertaking for the amateur dressmaker, than has been the case for several seasons, there being no superfluous fullness which might conceal any little discrepancies. The contour of the fashionable skirt is, this season, very seldom broken by any, save flat trimmings. might conceal any little discrepancies. The contour of the fashionable skirt is, this season, very seldom broken by any, save flat trimmings, the flounce skirts which were so in evidence last season are altogether passe. One of the most novel skirts I have seen has no opening at the back, fitted very closely over the hips, the fullness springing out from the point where the placket usually ceases. It is gotten into through its opening at the left side, which is fastened snugly with tiny buttons set close together. Gold baby pins are used to close the skirt at the back, successfully too. Rare indeed are the skirts which are not fastened at the back with either button or pin—even when neither are used the inverted pleat fits over the "turnure" like a glove. Of course this plainness at the back demands a spring from the waist, which having been denied to many, by nature, may be supplied by a small bustle; but this must be very carefully fitted so as to fill the exact hollow without making one larger. The large majority of the new skirts are drop skirts, this being the case both with soft goods and the heavier stuffs used for tailor-made gowns.

There seems to be a decided preference for

skirts, this being the case both with soit goods and the heavier stuffs used for tailor-made gowns.

There seems to be a decided preference for softly-fitting bodices for almost every style of gown, save that of the strictly tailorfied. The blouse, however, has almost entirely disappeared from the horizon, the favorite bodice I refer to, is usually provided with an easily fitted lining of silk, over which the thin wool or silk is drawn softly into shape, the only really fitted places being the under arm pieces. One lovely waist I have in mind, which by the way is of French origin, has the body of heavy silk in inch square blocks of green and brown, matching the skirt, fitting comfortably, over which is a loose, blouse-like arrangement of black chenille caught together in squares. Across the shoulders, back and front, like a bertha, are pendants of rich yellow lace, attached by small roses of lace embroidery. This bodice exemplifies the adoption by the French of comfortably fitting garments, as being more truly graceful and becoming than any which confines and so often distorts the figure.

Very few changes in sleeves are noted; they are scarcely smaller than those of last season, the only addition whatever in their makeup being at the wrist, which is still worn very long and drooping over the hand. This is far too becoming a mode to be easily dropped and one is perfectly safe in lavishing all sorts of decorations on this part of the bodice. A pretty sleeve to be worn with a skirt buttoned at the back and a bodice fastened in the same manner, fits perfectly snug, but without cramping the arm, is buttoned from the top of the shoulder to the hand. Sleeves of evening gowns when of lace or thin material, very often are provided with thumb straps, when no gloves are worn.

Shirt waists show small modifications from last very a style, with the excention of use of

loves are worn.
Shirt waists show small modifications from last year's style, with the exception of use of material, which does not provide for the bayadere stripe. The plainest shirt waists are of course always in the best taste, though fancy runs riot in all sorts of embellishments. The



WELL BUTTONED IN.

white shirt waists are to be very much in evidence and are this year exceedingly dainty owing to the amount of hand work put upon them, and it is no uncommon thing to see the entire waist made of hand hemstitched tucks

Spring millinery is always fascinating, in as much as it always sets forth novel ideas, and this season is no disappointment in that line.

My lady fair smiles sweetly upon hats tilting over the nose, or those flaring off the face; indeed, her affections were never more divided, both styles being bewitching and both usually suited to her, provided she arranges her hair afresh for each change of hat. The flaring hat can be worn successfully only with the pompadour, large or small to suit the face, and this mode of hair dressing is by no means passe, although the parted hair is again in high favor, waved loosely. For the pompadour there are the "rats" so necessary in giving correct boutfancy, and, when one's hair is thin on the top, the clever hairdresser has provided a waved covering of hair to be rolled over the "rat," a substitute for one's scanty locks.

A smart little hat is just finished, in scarlet straw, rolling sharply back from the face, the narrow brim at the back sloping over the hair, simply trimmed with slender curving wings of black, twists and knots of black velvet ribbon, and cut steel buckles. A pretty capote is built of cerise pink taffeta draped softly with embroidered white mousseline de soie and further embellished by a bunch of rich velvet roses, in violet, set at the left side. Crowns of all

broidered white mousseline de soie and further embellished by a bunch of rich velvet roses, in violet, set at the left side. Crowns of all sorts of hats are made of leaves set over-lapping one another, with good effect.

The nattiest gown I have seen this spring was an Eton jacket, a style which has regained its old-time popularity. The material was smooth, light-weight broadcloth in a pale biscuit color, the skipt and edges of the jacket richly empared.

the skirt and edges of the jacket richly em-broidered with a darker shade of heavy silk

An attractive evening frock is set forth here of soft china silk in creamy white, having an overdress of creamy lace, and soft bodice of the



A DAINTY EVENING GOWN.

same, the one-sided bertha being of canary velvet edged with quillings of orange mousseline de soie. A wreath of yellow roses covers one shoulder, while a large knot of yellow tulle, with long scarf ends falls from the shoulder.

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ply of these necessaries of the toilet kept by Uncle Sam for their use would fill a fair-sized warehouse. The Treasury Department alone owns seven thousand to we ls, and nearly t wo thousand of them thousand to we ls, and nearly t wo thousand of them there are thousand to we ls, and nearly t wo thousand to we ls, and nearly t wo thousand of them four hundred and fifty towels every day, and the Agricultural Department one hundred and ten. Then there are the Bureau of Education, the Geological Survey, the Census, the Patent Office, the Labor Bureau, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, all belonging to the Interior Department, and all materially adding to the number of towels used daily. The State Department has, of course, the smallest number of clerks, but uses more towels in proportion to the number of clerks than any other two departments, The Navy and the War Departments, too, are as lavish as the State Department in their use of towels.

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at an average cost of thirty-five cents a

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But all these are simply superficial assistants. It is impossible to have a good complexion unless the digestive organs perform their work properly; unless the stomach by properly digesting the food taken into it furnishes an abundance of pure blood a good complexion is impossible.

impossible.

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ing from some form of indigestion.

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COMPORT. Augusta.

Among Our New Possessions.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

tification. In many states the legislatures adopted resolutions instructing their senators to vote for ratification. They believed this action to be not only a patriotic duty, but a measure demanded by the highest and best interests of the nation. The leading minds of the country in the great professions and at the great universities and centers of learning, united in their demands that ratification of the peace treaty, pure and simple, was the one thing that could set our country right before the world. After that we could take the next step toward justice and national honor, whatever that step may be.

With the treaty ratified we were still in a condition of truce pending open war with Spain. No one in America wishes that war again opened. We believe that everybody in the United States wanted peace; that peace lies along one straight, plain path, the path of ratification.

The people of the country looked to their everytes the senators of the United States to

the United States wanted peace; that peace lies along one straight, plain path, the path of ratification.

The people of the country looked to their servants, the senators of the United States, to ratify the pending treaty of peace, and were not disappointed when the treaty was ratified by a vote of 57 in favor with 27 against. This was on Monday, February 5th. It is more than probable that the necessary two-thirds vote would not have been obtained had not Aguinaldo's forces assumed the offensive on the previous Saturday. This action proved the defeat of the opposition and gave enough of the wavering vote to secure the requisite number for a majority.

It has always seemed that no matter what might have been the opinions of the opposing senators on the future of the Philippines, there could be but one thing to do relative to the ratification of the treaty. Until this had been done, final or decisive action was impossible. The people throughout the country have learned to implicitly rely on President McKinley and stood willing to trust him in the matter, fully believing that he would take time and would not act until he was fully informed and then for the best interest both of the Filipinos and the American people. It is always unsafe to form rash conclusions and take hasty action where but little information on the subject has been obtained. Last May a great majority of our readers could hardly have told where the Philippine islands were, and it is senseless at this early day to think any of us have information enough to state what will be best as the final policy of our government.

In the heroic deeds of the Manila battle was the taking of the Santa Anna church by a daring charge of American soldiers. The Filipinos, like most Orientals, will fight in entrenchments; but do not like field battles. Most of the atone-built churches around Manila had been pierced by musketry firing. Successively these were captured by the Americans who drove the insurgents from these forts.

After hearing quantities of testimony t



SANTA ANNA CHURCH.

casier to make charges against people than to prove them. When the full findings of the court are made public, they will undoubtedly show themselves to be founded on good testimony and good reasoning. One of the most unfortunate episodes has been the remarkable utterance of Commissary-General Eagan and his prompt Court-martial. Gen. Eagan in his testimony before the Commission called Gen. Miles, the head of the Army, a liar in several ways. The public utterance of such a phrase against a superior officer called for immediate trial. A court headed by Gen. Wesley Merritt met and promptly found him guilty but recommended mercy. Accordingly President McKinley commuted his sentence to retirement for six years. Few of those who think the judgment not severe enough have any idea of the humiliation this sentence conveys to a man who has been so long in the service. Considering that criticism had driven him almost into an unbalanced state, undoubtedly the sentence was sufficiently severe.

The Home Market club of Boston gave the largest dinner ever held, in honor of the President on February 16th. The immense hall was packed with an immense audience of typical New England men, who applauded every utterance of President McKinley. The event had been watched with the deepest interest for it was realized that Mr. McKinley was to make the first public talk since the ratification of the Peace treaty.

The President said in substance that no man

eace treaty.

The President said in substance that no man

The President said in substance that no man yet knew enough about the conditions to say what should be our final policy but that through no desire on our part the islands had come into our possession. As Comfort has repeatedly pointed out those that criticise offer no solution of the problem. But Mr. McKinley in eloquent and well-chosen words told that we would not shirk responsibilities; that while we harbor no Imperialistic designs we intend that until ready for a permanent government ready and willing to stand alone, the United States proposes to hold the Islands in peace and order and clear the pathway of civilization in them. When Congress and the American people shall say what is best, then the administration will act; until then America will preserve peace and order. These and many other things were said by Mr. McKinley and we advise every Comfort reader seeking knowledge on the subject, to obtain this speech and read every word of it, to gain a perfect idea of the tremendous problems our nation is called upon to solve.

This clear statement of Mr. McKinley and endorsed by the members of his cabinet, has been published all over the world. The Ameri-

can press as a whole cordially endorses the statement. Abroad different countries view the situation from different standpoints, but as a whole the press everywhere favors the position our President has taken relative to the Philip pines.

OSTRICH FARMING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NE of the paying in-dustries of California is that of ostrich farmis that of ostrich farming. A few years ago ostriches were thought to belong exclusively to Africa, and it is only within the past twelve years that it has been found that they can be kept in this country.

in this country.
Ostriches for breeding purposes are worth five hundred dollars per pair, although one suitable for a circus can be bought for one hundred dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Ostrich are a very devoted and exclusive couple. It matters not whether their mating was their own affair or was managed mating was their own affair or was managed by their owner, as soon as he has received his wife Mr. Ostrich claims her as his own, and is ready to fight for her to his last breath. Visitors to an ostrich farm will observe that, in order to preserve the peace, alleys six feet in width separate breeding pairs from each other.

When this loving couple have decided that the time has come for them to raise a family the male leads his wife to a secluded spot, and, falling flat upon his breastbone, he proceeds to

the male leads his wife to a secluded spot, and, falling flat upon his breastbone, he proceeds to kick out the sand behind him until he has a hole a foot deep. Then he turns about and kicks the sand from the other end of the hole until it is about three feet in width and one in depth. When he has the hole or nest of a size to satisfy Madam Ostrich she takes possession of it and lays an egg therein. Every other day she repeats the process until she has twelve or fifteen of the great white globes beneath her. Then she proceeds to sit on them, and for forty-two days thereafter she may be seen patiently squatting over them, her long legs trailing out behind her. In this work she is greatly assisted by the male, who "spells" her devotedly; but, manlike, he does his "sitting" at night when he would be squatting somewhere asleep where there were eggs to cover or not. From where there were eggs to cover or not. From five in the afternoon to eight or nine in the morning he takes his turn on the nest, and again for an hour or so at noon.

five in the afternoon to eight or nine in the morning he takes his turn on the nest, and again for an hour or so at noon.

When the first little chick announces that he wishes to "come out" his mother promptly assists him by crushing his shell gently with her breastbone. At last all are hatched, and a thrifty family of a dozen brown, fluffy baby ostriches, each the size of a pullet, reward their proud and happy parents. For a day or two they want no food, and only swallow pebbles and bits of stone, and by the time they are ready for better nourishment they are taken from their parents and placed in an alfalfa field. Here they grow like the weeds about them, a foot in a month in height, and at the end of six months they are ready to be placed in the common corral, and to eat from the community troughs the food furnished to the fullgrown birds—sugar beets, grass and corn.

The feathers of the full-grown, male ostrich are far finer and more valuable than those of either the young one or the female. The feathers ripen every few months, and are worth about thirty dollars per plucking of each male bird. Once in nine months the bird is plucked, and the process is an interesting one to watch, although rather a dangerous one to the operators, as a kick from an ostrich is a serious matter. There is one saving clause in its effect, however. An ostrich can only kick forward, never backward, and he is also a "high kicker." Remembering these two things the men generally manage to keep out of the way of his formidable, two-toed foot. In catching an ostrich for plucking he is always approached from behind, and sometimes he leads his would-be captors a long, weary chase before he can be captured. Small dogs are of great assistance in this business; for, strange as it may seem, an ostrich is desperately afraid of a dog, and the smaller the dog the greater is his fear of him. Being, as has been said, a "high kicker," he cannot reach low enough to touch the little animal, and so has no weapon with which to fight him.

When the ost

touch the little animal, and so has no weapon with which to fight him.

When the ostrich is caught he is taken into a small corral surrounded by a high board fence a hood is drawn over his head and neck, and he is placed with his head in an angle of the corral fence. Here he is powerless to kick, and is held in place by a man, while the ripe black and white quills are cut from his wings with short, heavy shears. A stump four inches long is left by the shearer, and this is pulled out two months later to make room for the new feathers. After the shears have done their work the smaller feathers of the wings and the long white tail feathers are pulled and the work d. The body feathers are never taken. is finished. The body feathers are never taken.
A gate in the corner of the cornal in front of the ostrich is then opened, the hood is drawn from his head, and off he scoots like the wind,

from his head, and off he scoots like the wind, flapping his wings in high indignation at the treatment which he has received.

Anyone who chooses can keep ostriches. They are hardy birds, and require no more care than a horse or a cow. Their food, too, is comparatively inexpensive, as it consists of sugar beets, grass and corn; and they amply fepay their owner for their care and keep. their owner for their care and keep.

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WHILE there are some people who have a vague idea that coins issued 100 or 1000 years ago are worth fabrilous sums, yet very few know that coins issued only a few years ago are promium. For instance, the silver dollars of 18% and many of the earlier ones. The first Columbian half-dollar, issued 1892, sold for 81,000. All the half-dollars from 1879 to 1890 are at a premium, also Isabella quarters of 1893, the old issue of the quarters and half-dollars of 1853, twenty-cent pieces 1876 to 1878; five and three-cent pieces of 1877; tast issue of the two-cent copper and three-tent aligner pieces; first issue of the nickel cents, all gold dollars and three-dollar gold pieces; all Territorial and California coins from 1849 to 1890, and thousands of earlier American and Foreign coins, Canadian specially. There is also a premium on some coins anadian especially. There is also a premium on some ith MINT MARKS O, S, C, D or CC; all sectional currency colonial continued and Confidents bill

fractional currency, colonial, continental and Confederate bills at property of the colonial currency, colonial, continental and Confederate bills at JOERNAL says that a cent was plowed up at Aurora, N. Y., work \$1,200, and that Mr. Castle paid \$4,400 FOR JSTAMF found at Louisville, Ky. The World says: "Many people have become wealthy by looking after old coins at sampa." The HOME JOERNAL says: "Coin and stamp collecting is a profitable business, as there are but few in it. Thumismatic Bank buys from Agents all over the country, and pays them big sums." Coins that are very hard to find in or section are often easily found in others. A Boston baker soil ili coppers for \$8,515, silver coins for \$4,173, and 4 gold coins for \$1,700, and others have done nearly as well. Ms. F. W. Ayrer soil recently a lot of stamps, collected since 1802, to Stant Gibbons for \$2,50, \$00. THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS says: "The Numismatic Bank is not only the large institution of its kind, but as reliable, safe and trustworthy to deal with as any stational Bank. The enormous business done them is the result of \$20 UARE DEALING and liberality." Sendtwo stamps for our illustrated circular on rare coins at stamps, which may prove to be your stepping stone to wealth and independence. NURISMATIC BANK, (Dept. 6, Boston, Bass.

FEEL YOUR PULS

Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure: and sure :-

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgla Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

If you have been treating your-

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to preve it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

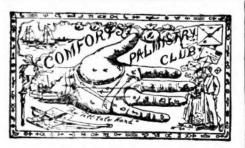
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These models are gotten up to sell for \$5.00 BIC FREE OFFER.

These models are gotten up to sell for \$5.00 per set, but in order to introduce them quickly we will send one set of models to you free, all charges paid, so, it won't cost you free, all charges paid, so, it won't cost you seen to examine into the plan.

The first idea was to send the models on receipt of one dollar, but many do not like to risk even one dollar without seeing the article even if sure of getting \$5.00 worth—so it was decided to trust to the honesty of the sisters to either return the models or the small amount in cash required and rely on the good words to be spoken to advertise it to others. We thus give all who see this notice a channe to inspect the great system free of charge for the next thirty days, and an offer goes with the models whereby you can secure it entirely free and make much money and secure valuable premiums talking it up and introducting to others. Don't wait, act quick before our first lot is exhausted, send full name and complete address "COMFORT'S" MODEL SYSTEM, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

LADY from one of the Western States writes to ask of whom our Palmistry Club consists. Everybody, my friend, who has had his or her hand read in this column, and everybody who has procured and studied a copy of our Palmistry Guide. I presume there are others who are glad to see this question answered. Remember, to belong to the "Comfort Palmistry Club" it is necessary to become identified with it by sending your hand for reading, or at least by getting and studying the Guide, first, of course, remembering to comply with the conditions.

The same lady asks several questions which will interest all who are studying palmistry. "Is there anything reliable in the sign, of which I have heard, of the interlacing the fingers to see which thumb naturally comes outside next the person?"

There is a groundwork of truth in all these signs. The person of strong character—especially one of great independence of character—will show it in his right hand; and in interlacing the fingers, the right thumb will naturally fall on the outside, while the more dependent disposition will show itself by throwing the left hand out. This is according to a principle of cheirosophy rather than by any particular value of this sign alone. By this it would seem that the person whose right thumb falls naturally on the outside will naturally dominate others, while the weaker character is shown by the left thumb; this is not infallible, however. "What is the signification of a deep line running from the base of the thumb to the mount of Jupiter and terminating at the base of the first finger?" Great liberality and good fortune either through marriage or through friends. It is a lucky sign.

"What does it mean to have four parallel fine lines running from the base of the thumb to one of these lines?" The fine parallel lines, three or more, are worry lines and mean illness or trouble in early life. If there are stars on either end, they will indicate troubles connected with marriage. Or at least serious difficulties in love affairs.

"What is the me LADY from one of the Western States

will indicate troubles connected with marriage. Or at least serious difficulties in love affairs.

"What is the meaning of having the little finger placed low on the hand?" It means quickness of perception and a leaning towards science. The person may not have developed this taste but he has it by nature.

The same lady, (who, by the way, is "Anchor E.," whose hand has been read in this department and who is a member of the club,) gives a new way to take impressions of the hands which may be of great assistance to some of you. She says: "A dense smoke can be most easily gathered and most easily distributed as well, by She says: "A dense smoke can be most easily gathered and most easily distributed as well, by holding the paper over burning camphor gum. The best way is to finely crumble the gum thinly on a flat surface, as the larger the lumps the higher they blaze, thus endangering the paper. You can readily see that by spreading the crumbs out on a flat surface a larger surface of paper will take the smoke at once than if held over a single flame."

She also says that a fixatif can easily be made

over a single flame."

She also says that a fixatif can easily be made at home by putting a lump of gum shellac into a bottle containing alcohol to cut, which is quite an inexpensive way. Surely both these bits of information are valuable and I hope you will cut them out and paste them in your scrap-books, unless you do better than that and preserve all your back numbers of Comfort and bind them up.

Now I have taken up so much of my allotted

Now I have taken up so much of my allotted space in answering these questions, which I am re are of value to one in Comfort's Palmistry Club, that I shall have room for but two readings this month.

The first of these is "See More." He has a good hand denoting a strong, self-reliant char-



acter; one who will dare to go a head with whatever seems right and best for him to do. He will be capa-ble of great selfsacrifice and as generous in usposition. He has a good business hand and the most fortunate part of his life will come generous in disafter the age of twenty-five and until fifty. He will make a good

estate dealer, insurance agent or will make a good merchant, real any similar line. I should say those callings would be better than a professional career. He will live to be seventy or over, for although the life line is broken in his left hand it is all right in the other, and the right is the hand which denotes his life as he makes it; he will need to take especial care of himself between the ages of thirty and fifty, however. He will marry not far from thirty and will have a happy marriage. The line to which the accompanying letter refers as "descending from the heart line" is not so; I should read it as a line ascending to it, which puts a good meaning to it. It shows happiness and good luck somewhere about thirty—probably connected with his marriage. The broken heart-line I do not see repeated on the other hand in the impressions before me; if it is not in both hands it is not to be counted; if it is it may mean heart-disease or it may mean serious trouble resulting from the affections at the period indicated. I should judge from the shape of his finger-tips, as I cannot see his nails, that he might be subject to heart-disease. I think he will marry but once, and will never be very wealthy, although he will be comfortably well off. He will travel somewhat in the latter part of his life. He probably meets with a disappointment in his first love affair, which comes quite early in life; but he will live to be glad of it and will marry

very happily when the proper time comes. This will not be before he is thirty, and he must not try to hurry it.

"A. S. K." has hands of a very different type. They are a woman's hands and indicate a nature of directly opposite tendencies. This hand is as distinctly feminine as the other is masculine. It shows a very refined, gentle nature, fond of music, art, poetry and all things that are delicate and womanly. This person is of a highly nervous temperament, very ambitious and somewhat impatient of restraint. She is anxious to leap at once to successful ends and is too often unwilling to work patiently for them as all must who would succeed permathem as all must who would succeed permanently. She has great ideas of what she would do and courage to carry them out; if she will cultivate patience and perseverance, and will be more energetic about sticking hard at what-

ever she underever she under-takes, she is sure to succeed in the end. She will be long-lived and will have fairly good health, al-though by nature her constitution is delicate. She will probably will probably have a severe illness about the age of thirty-five to forty. She will recover,

to forty. She will recover, however, and will live to a green old age. She will marry very happily and make a sensible match at the same time, which is about thirty-five. She will have affairs before that and possibly marry before, but the "grand passion" of her life will come at that time. She has a romantic hand and this attachment (at thirty-five) will be somewhat unexpected and from a man who will come suddenly into her life, probably from another part of the country. She has great good sense and will be guided in matters of the heart by good judgment as well as by love. She will be well off after this marriage and will have a fine reputation. Probably she will be distinguished on her own account, although I think her husband will be famous, too. There is a great deal in a hand like hers, and I would prefer to see and feel such a hand, as there is always more to be told by doing this than it is possible to get out of a reading on paper, where it is impossible to take into account the quality, size and consistency of the hand; but I predict for "A. S. K." a career of considerable variety, on the whole lucky and always interesting.



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CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

F the day ever dawns when science shall the day ever dawns when science shain have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately dis-Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with salt and pepsin in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

forms.

To America is due the honor of having first To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (arachis hypogæa). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been geered at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for oliveoil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when peptonized acted like magic in dispelling hearthurn curing insomnia and

peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when peptonized acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteids into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for dyspepsia, for Bright's Disease, for Diabetes, for Insomnia and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist in our employ has demonstrated that "pepsin-salted" peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This medical a food-medicine that is certain to be

cinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a food-medicine that is certain to be

makes a food-medicine that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of pepsin-salted peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare pepsin-salted peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked

and other kidney troubles have noted marked

progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the pepsin-salted peanuts digests and makes other food

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Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of pepsinsalted peanuts rightly will cure insomnia. Notice Comfort's special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once for a sample package as per their offer.

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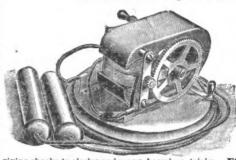
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE attic, being a catch-all for the articles which are out of date and yet which are too good to be thrown away, is a very interesting place in which to spend an hour or two, several times during the year. We there often find things we had entire-

things we had entirely forgotten we ever owned, and it often need of. Recently, on such a visit I unearthed an umbrella case. These cases were much in vogue a dozen years ago, but, like everything else, got slightly out of date and so was relegated to a trunk in the attic, but it always was a useful ornament and knowing this I pressed out the wrinkles and it now adorns a closet door and is a very convenient receptacle for four umbrelles. Our illustration shows it. It is made of heavy unbleached linen, the back piece being 26 inches long by 9 inches wide at the top, tapering slightly from top to bottom, so that at the bottom it is 4 inches wide; it may be rounded, at top and bottom, or left with square corners, as preferred. Near the top are embroidered figures in outline, or leaves or sprays of flowers may be used. The porket is 28 inches long by 8 wide, and is embroidered with two sprays of holly. This pocket is basted onto

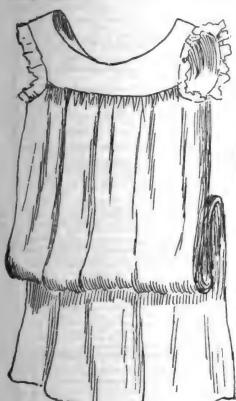
swide, and is embroidered with two sprays of holly. This pocket is basted onto the back, from the bottom to within 8 inches of the top, and the edges are bound with braid, two loops being left at the top of the back piece, with which to hang the article on a door or wall. The center of the pocket is stitched the entire length, to the back piece, thus

stitched the entire length, to the back piece, thus forming two pockets. Before the pocket piece is stitched to the back piece the top should be bound with braid like that used for the edge. As the pocket piece is wider than the back piece, some plaits must be laid over in the former, at the bottom, to make it fit onto the latter. The one here illustrated is worked with red tambo, and the braid used for the edge is ordinary red wool binding braid. A pocket of this kind keeps the dust from umbrellas, and keeps them out of the way.

Cases should always be taken off umbrellas when putting them away, as, if left loose, the silk will not crack so readily. The the cases onto the handles, and then they will always be at hand when needed. A pocket of the kind described above will easily hold 4 umbrellas, even though they are only loosely rolled.

At Christmas I had such a treasure of an apron given to me, that I want to describe it to the readers of this column, and if they haven't one similar to it, they had better go right to work and make one, for it is not only useful, but a very becoming garment as well, and that usually counts.

but a very becoming garment as well, and that usually counts.

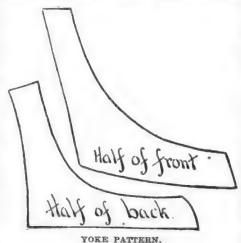


B

FINISHED APRON.

Our illustrations show the apron, also the pattern of the yoke, which is easily followed and enlarged by any one desiring to make one. The front of the yoke may be cut on one piece by laying the pattern on a fold of the clotnor may be cut in two pieces and seamed in the middle of the front; the back of yoke is cut in pattern of the yoke, which is easily followed and enlarged by any one desiring to make one. The front of the yoke may be cut on one piece by laying the pattern on a fold of the clotnormay be cut in two pieces and seamed in the middle of the front; the back of yoke is cut in two pieces, as the apron buttons down the

back. Cut two yokes and seam them together around the top, and then turn and stitch the edge, thus making the yokes double; stitch the shoulder seams. The lower part of the apron has two breadths of the material, which in this case is blue and white striped percale. One full breadth, a yard and a half long is used for the front, and two half-breadths tne same length for the back. Gather the breadths and sew between the lining and outside of the yoke, leaving a few inches on the edges coming under the arms, to run out beyond the arm holes, plain. Then stitch the under arm seams to the bottom, hem bottom and edges at middle of back, and put a button and buttonhole at back of yoke. A narrow ruffle is then inserted between lining and outside of arm hole, and then this and the bottom of the yoke are stitched. This is a pretty pattern for a child's apron, made of nainsook or barred muslin, and sash ends may be inserted in seam under arms and tied in the back. If desired to button from



yoke to bottom, two breadths must be used in the back, instead of one divided in the middle, otherwise it will not be full enough to button to the bottom and look well.

Habits and Superstitions of Musicians.



NE of my musiciau friends, said Flageolet Dash to the Leader, has a piano; he not only plays on it, but he makes the inside serve him as a safe. He plays a tune, then lifts the lid and takes out a cheese sandwich and a bottle of beer. Of course he is a bachelor. I know another musician who plays on

wich and a bottle of beer. Of course he is a bachelor. I know another musician who plays on one of those big brass things that go around the body (a helicon). Well, when he goes off to play at a street parade he carries his luncheon inside the instrument; and he tells me that the tones and the power of the instrument are improved by its sides coming in contact with the sausages, sauer kraut and black bread. Yet he seems to make just as good music when the luncheon is packed in the vicinity of his wind-bag. I know a flute-player who thinks it unlucky to wash his hands on the day he plays the flute. He says he was once persuaded to defy the superstition and washed his hands, and on that very day some one stole his flute case. I know a fiddle-player who says it's the very highest kind of luck to be invited out to dinner; and he says that if he is ever foolish enough to decline the offer, he always plays out of tune. Another musician has a superstition that it is a sign of luck if he takes somebody else's hat and umbrella. when he was wearing an old hat or carrying an old umbrella.

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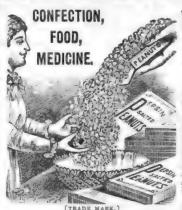
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A recent short story by an American writer advocated the purchase of Mt. Etna and Vesuvius by American Stock Company. The volcanic power was to be utilized for motive force. The serious and detailed explanation was accepted by a European newspaper as a statement of fact and its editorial column launched forth in bitter denunciation of the sordid spirit of gain that actuated all Americans. Not even the scenic beauty of the greatest of volcanoes was free from the dollar and cent standard of the American. Well, they do not know when we are in earnest and our fun isn't yet within the comprehension of the literal minded foreigner. They needn't feel at all disturbed. We don't want any of their old effete volcances for show or blow or ducats. We've got the biggest firepot on earth right in our own Hawaii. Kilauca has been firing up recently and the worn out monarchies simply haven't got a volcano that can enter the same class as Kilauea when it gets down to business.

The French Government has made a wise decision in refusing to exhibit the work of woman by itself. The stage has been passed that required woman to prove that she was capable of doing work in any art, profession or science. The sex barrier practically does not limit woman's field of work. She has proven her right of admission into the field of competition and now she must prove that she can hold the ground she has won, not because she is a woman but because she is a competent worker. It is oftener easier to win than to retain the prizes of this world. In the fair field of open competition it is the fittest who survive. The best lawyer, the best architect, the best physician, the best artist rises to the top through merit of effort. It raises woman's work to a higher plane when the question is not one of the sex of the producer, but simply of the relative excellence of the production.

Every nation is at heart savage. Longfellow's vision of the time when "the warrior's name would be a name abhorred" seems farther off to-day than ever. The peace proposition of the young ruler of the least civilized nation of Europe scarcely meets with even serious comment. Victories of statesmanship and diplomacy do not appeal to the masses of the people. The old savage admiration of the battle hero yet sweeps all before it. Nothing stronger il lustrates this than the relative success of the effort to raise a fund for a memorial to Gladstone and the monument towards a memorial for Kitchener, the victor of the Soudan. Popular interest in the Gladstone memorial seems to have died out. It was proposed to place a library in many English towns with the funds arising from a popular subscription. This Gladstone Memorial Library would, it was felt, be a fit tribute to the Grand Old Man. The project is likely to be carried through by the interest of a few wealthy men. On the other hand the public are tumbling over one another to contribute toward a college for blacks at Khartoum to be called the Gordon Memorial College. It is the old savage instinct of admiration of the victor in battle.

The Oread Institute of Worcester, Mass., is entering upon a work of practical philanthropy. This school is the successor of the New Era Cooking School. It offers free tuition, room

must have a High school education or its equivalent and must show natural ability and a desire to learn. After her graduation she will be aided to a position in her state. People are just beginning to comprehend the intimate relation between food and the mental and moral development of man. What we eat and what we are are not two entirely separate problems. The scientific study of nutrition of food stuffs and of methods of preparing food is constantly receiving more and more attention. These scholarships mean more for the good of the community than a corresponding number of college scholarships. We do not neglect or decry the mental, but it depends more closely upon the physical than people have believed. The Oread scholarships are steps in the right direction

March fourth marks the middle of President McKinley's administration and the close of the fifty-fifth Congress of the United States. In reviewing the events of the last one hundred and ten years, or the time in which the will of the people has been shown through its Congress, the great importance of this Congress stands clearly out. It has had to decide not only what is wise at the moment but what is likely to be wisdom in the sight of future generations. Never before in our history has a choice of acts seemed to rest more completely in the hands of the people. In the great national crises that have arisen during the one hundred and ten years of our nationality, there has been less freedom of determination. We have not precipitated affairs but have waited. and when the inevitable was thrust upon us have accepted it with strength and fortitude. When we entered upon the war with Spain it is safe to say that a large—a very large—proportion of thoughtful people were doubtful of the wisdom of the act. After the war begun the nation was one mind and one heart until its close. There seems little doubt that the policy of expansion is a favorite one with the people at large. The fifty-fifth Congress will be a marked one in the history of our nation. The United States has with one bound entered into the arena with the great colonial powers of the earth. New times demand new theories and new practices and the next Congress must face conditions and questions for whose solving the past furnishes no precedent.

The Supreme Court Justices are hereafter to wear an insignia of office in the form of a black silk robe. This has always been the custom in the Supreme Court at Washington and its general introduction is to be commended. We are told by one well-known writer that law has its seat in the bosom of God. Certainly all that adds to the dignity and prestige of the law will react favorably upon the community. Some radical believers in plain, unadorned, democratic simplicity detect a startling departure from national traditions in this innovation. As a matter of fact the precedent set by Washington favored more pomp and circumstance in the administration of all departments of government. The State Court of Appeals in New York some time ago adopted the gown. Many lawyers believe that its general adoption by all magistrates and judges would add much to the dignity of court proceedings. Lord Bacon once declared that the Judge when he sat upon the bench was another man from the layman. No doubt a change of apparel emphasizes the different attitude of mind required from a man as a judge or a man as an ordinary citizen. The association of long ages of historic precedent is shown by the wearing of a gown. The old Egyptian lawgivers were so arrayed. Rome's greatest contribution to civilization was in the old Roman laws and her law judges were the gown of their exalted office. In early ages the gown was white; the black robe became more common in the days when the priests were judges. Human nature does not change with successive ages. The dress that was the symbol of justice and right is more needed to-day than at any time. We need to revive any precedent or tradition that adds dignity without sacrificing self respect.

The question of the admission of Mr. Roberts the Congressman elect from Utah to a seat in the House has greatly excited the moral feelings of the nation. Mr. Roberts is a polygamist and hundreds of petitions have been prepared to present to the House asking that he may be refused a seat. Utah is one of the states having the smallest representation allowed by the Constitution. Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Wyoming and Utah by the census of 1890 are entitled to but one representative. This man has great responsibility, as the sole representative of the people as individuals. The question of the admission of members of Congress is not a moral one but a constitutional one. The constitution demands three qualifications; age, citizenship, residence. A representative must be twenty-five years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state from which he is chosen. The Constitution expressly states that "Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members." This is understood to allow them to judge under three provisions of the Constitution in reference to eligibility. Cases of contested elections are frequent in the House. and Utah by the census of 1890 are entitled to and board to one woman from each state and territory. The governor of the state is to be given the appointment of the candidate subject to the conditions that the appointee must be between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five,

in any one of the three Constitutional requirements for a representation he may legally be refused admission to the House. If not he must be admitted, but there is a Constitutional clause that will enable the House to enforce the moral sentiment of the public that it represents. The House may on vote of two-thirds sents. The House may on vote of two-thirds of its members censure or expel a member. This power has been exercised. It would be a travesty upon the law against polygamy should the House accept and retain a member who was indeniably guilty of the crime. The polygamy question in Utah was for years a shame to our laws and our sense of morality. The man who upholds such an institution should not be allowed a place in the deliberations of the nation. If by the provisions of the Constitution he is legally entitled to a seat, he should have it. Then the House should put itself on record by expelling the man who is itself on record by expelling the man who trying to defy public opinion.

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Changeless Trofert
Come When the Soft Twilight Falls Schumens
Coom's Breach of Fromise. Cake walk Blake
Cow Bells. The. Boyhood's Recollection Grimm
Darling Nellie Gray
Dear Heart, We're Growing Old Estabrooke
Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp. Hoser
Estabr's Lullaby. Sumber Song Betts
Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song Betts
Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song Bits
Far Away
Father is Drinking Again. Temperance Easter Eve. Sacred Gossed Epieti 2 Ellaine. Waltz song Beits Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song Moster Ellaine. Waltz song Beits Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song Beits Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song Beits Farker is Drinking Again. Temperances Farker is Drinking Again. Temperances Farker of Our Country. Patriotic Mathéol Flag 7 four Country. Patriotic Mathéol Flag 7 four Country. Patriotic Messer Flag of Our Country. Patriotic Messer Flag 7 four Country. Patriotic Messer Flag 7 four Country. Patriotic Messer Flore New York Stringht Delease Cones For the Colors. Patriotic Wilson Fror a Dream's Sake Coses For the Colors. Patriotic Wilson For You We are Praying at Home Establyock. From our Home the Loved are Going Percy God Bless My Kind Old Mother Levell Gloser Gypay Countess. Duet Read Flore Going God Bless My Kind Old Mother Messer Going God Bless My Kind Old Mother Forget the Happy Past Read Flore Going God Bless My Kind Old Mother Gloser Goyar Country I the Starlight. Duet Gloser Junita. Hallad Flore Gloser Junita. Hallad Flore Going Hallad Gold Gold Keep the Horseshoe over the Door Gook Keep the Horseshoe over the Door Stelly Kiss me, but don't say goodbye. Estilety Going Missud
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136 Request. Sacred
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Cook
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Tis True. Dear Heart, We're Fading Estabrooke
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Simil I EverSee Mother's Face Again? Adviance
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Servet Long Ago, The
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Guim
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Allen
Servet Song
House
Stanley
Bluke
What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet Glorer
Move
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About a dozen years ago the experiment of running horsecars on street railways by the use of electricity was tried in an Ohio city as an experiment. The success of this line as demonstrating greater economy and speed and more satisfactory service lead to its immediate adoption all over the world and to-day the trolley has supplanted the horsecar almost universally, while hundreds of cities and smaller towns have trolleys where the expense of a horse motive-power line could not have been considered.

is generally predicted as the heat, light and | what may not be accomplished as electricity | herewith. This bright-minded man has been power of the coming century. It will supersede the use of steam as a power at a compara-

becomes better understood.

This puts Comfort in mind of a letter writ-



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Yours very truly,

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The electric railroad is but the beginning of the Considering the tremendous strides | West in praise of another step of progress, the extended use of this marvellous force which taken in the last ten years no one can predict which is so interesting that we reproduce it tory extends much further back.

quick to observe that in other fields than that of electricity there is rapid progress being made tively early day, or the best prophets are at ten by a leading electric railway man in the and his letter shows what he thinks of it. Thus the popular method of providing the best sheet music for every home at trifling cost marks in its own way as great progress as the harnessing down of the electric force to man's

But it is not only the man of action but also the philosopher and student that recognizes the great merit of this singular plan that has placed every home in a way to obtain the best music at trifling cost. Rev. R. B. Collins, the popular and learned minister of Meyersdale, Pa., writes of this method: "New music ordered came to hand this morning in excellent condition * * * Allow me to thank you and express my opinion * * * To say we are pleased is to put it too mildly, we are delighted, and are amazed at the cheapness of your publications * * an inspiration and a help * * I wish you abundant success in your efforts.

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GEMS MADE TO ORDER.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT.



IS said that no such display of diamonds has ever been seen in ew York as is on exhibition this winter. The fashionable wo-men at the opera are fairly laden with glittering gems, some of the leaders among them being adorned not only with neck-laces, bracelets and rings, but even with stomachers and coro-nets of precious stones. Yet it is very interesting to con-sider that a slight improvement on an invention already made would cause these ladies of the gilded world to divest themselves of such gauds and to abandon the

and to abandon the wearing of diamonds forever.

Real diamonds have already been manufactured in the laboratory, and it only remains to increase their size somewhat in order to render gems of this kind comparatively cheap—provided, of course, that the cost of artificial production is not excessive. Prof. Frank Clarke, of the United States Geological Survey, and other eminent chemists, are of the opinion that before long the carbon crystals now so precious. before long the carbon crystals now so precious will be turned out on a commercial scale, both as to size and quantity, without going to the mines for them. Should that happen, rich people will no longer care to wear diamonds, any more than they would now adorn themselves with hit of ortgless however been tight to the with bits of cutglass, however beautiful to the

Indeed, they may be obliged to give up preclous stones altogether, inasmuch as pretty nearly every kind of gem threatens to become a cheap laboratory product, thanks to recent scientific discoveries. For example, emeralds have been made by fusing together boric acid, oxide of chromium, and flawed and worthless crystals of real emerald. These, like the artificial diamonds, have not been obtained of sufficient size as yet to be worth expensive in the Scient size as yet to be worth anything in the market; but they point the way. Sapphires and rubies have likewise been reproduced—the latter of marketable size, by fusing small ruby

and rubies have likewise been reproduced—the latter of marketable size, by fusing small ruby "sparks" together.

This is not a question of imitation, properly so termed. The rubies are as real as those made by Nature, and indistinguishable from the latter save by the aid of a microscope. However, the sale of them has been forbidden in France where they are made, and people are not disposed to buy them, simply for the reason that they are counterfeit. At the present time a real ruby of 4 carats' weight, of good color, is worth \$9000, while a diamond of the same size is valued at only \$1000. Real amethysts have been made accidentally in the pottery furnaces at Sevres. Garnets have been reproduced, though imperfectly. There is no trouble in manufacturing the material of the opal, but the optical properties of that stone, to which are due its beautiful colors, have been turned out by Traube, a German chemist.

It is obvious from this statement the gem market is seriously threatened, though as yet it has not suffered. Jewelers have been able to keep artificial rubies out of the market up to now, but there is no question that these stones will find their way into use eventually. Rubles

now, but there is no question that these stones will find their way into use eventually. Rubles are scarce and infrequently worn; with diamonds it is quite otherwise, and laboratory reproductions of them, if cheap, would soon drive the mined crystals out of employment. Diamonds of any kind would in that event become so common as to be despised by the average bartender for purposes of adornment. The danger of the prospect suggested may be understood when it is explained that the world's stock of diamonds at the present time represent a value of \$1,000,000,000. Of this amount, dealers hold about \$350,000,000 worth, and pri-

dealers hold about \$350,000,000 worth, and private individuals are owners of the balance.

It is proposed to utilize the power of Niagara Falls to make diamonds, the reason back of this suggestion being that immense forces and this suggestion being that immense forces and an enormous heat seem to be required for the production of these crystals in large size. Science is now of the opinion that Nature makes diamonds in the bowels of the earth by subjecting a mixture of iron and carbon to a tremendous temperature, the stuff being allowed to cool very slowly, after which it is vomited up as volcanic matter. That is almost unquestionably the way in which the diamonds of the great South African fields have been formed, the carbon being crystallized out during the cooling. This process has been imitated successfully in Paris by M. Moissan, who fuses charcoal and wrought iron at 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit in an electric furnace. After allow cooling, the carbon of the charcoal is crystallized out in the form of microscopic diamonds.

It is observed that these artificial diamonds

It is observed that these artificial diamonds cometimes explode. Curiously enough, the nat-aral stones frequently do the same thing soon after they are brought out of the mine. They have been known to burst in the pockets of miners, or when held in the warm hand. Big ones seem to be more liable to burst than small ones seem to be more liable to burst than small ones, and in this way valuable stones have been destroyed. As a safeguard against such accidents, dealers frequently pack large diamonds in raw potatoes for shipment. The phenomenon described appears to be due to a small quantity of gas which is confined at enormous pressure in the interior of the gern. When warn, it has a tendency to expand, and so explodes the stone. This statement is made on the authority of the famous Prof. Crookes.

In this connection, it is very interesting to notice the fact that most of the diamonds obtained from the South African or other mines

and the fact that most of the diamonds obtained from the South African or other mines are not complete crystals but fragments, as if exploded. Nature, apparently, has produced them in her own chemical laboratories at great depths, where the temperature is comparable to that of the electric furnace, and where the immense pressure that seems to be required is existent. It is in recognition of these requirements that the suggestion respecting the employment of Niagara has been offered, the power obtainable from the cataract being sufficient to furnish any amount of pressure, and to give, through the medium of electricity, an enor-

Were it not for the propensity of the natural diamond to explode, doubtless large gems of

this kind would be comparatively common. Just to show what Nature is able to do in the production of this species of crystal, an object lesson is offered by the diamond—the biggest ever known—called the Jagerstontein Excelsior, which weighs nine hundred and seventyone carats, or nearly half a pound. It is of
pure water, except for a slight flaw near the
center. The owner of it is the Pope, to whom
it was presented, and its value has been estimated at five million dollars. The sort of flaw
described is apt to be observable in any diamond and frequently it takes the form of a
small cavity, which is believed to contain the
highly-compressed gas already referred to. If highly-compressed gas already referred to. If this gem had chanced to burst it would prob-ably have been resolved into a multitude of

this gem had chanced to burst it would probably have been resolved into a multitude of comparatively worthless splinters.

The mines of South Africa produce an average of fifty-five hundred carats of diamonds per day. The gems are dug out of great holes in the earth and the richness of the deposits does not appear to diminish with the depth. The formation is a sort of blue earth, as hard almost as stone, which is taken out of the mines and spread over the ground for hundreds of acres. Exposed to the atmosphere it disintegrates rapidly, and this makes it easy to wash out the diamonds. The washing is done on long tables, at which men stand and pick out the glittering crystals. The latter are cleaned by boiling them in acids, after which they are carefully sorted for size, color and purity. The room in which they are displayed at the offices of the company, affords a striking spectacle, being lighted by large windows, beneath which runs a broad counter covered with white sheets of paper. On the paper are laid out ever so many glistening heaps of diamonds, some pink, some white, some blue and some yellow.

A few years ago, before Cecil Rhodes became

yellow.

A few years ago, before Cecil Rhodes became the arbiter of the diamond mining industry in South Africa, he went to Mr. Barney Barnato, who recently met with so tragic a death by suicide, and appealed to that gentleman's sense of the picturesque by asking him to grant a view, if he could, of a bucket full of diamonds. Barney was a man who loved display above all things and he acquiesced. He took the whole of the stock that was then on hand and emotied things and he acquiesced. He took the whole of the stock that was then on hand and emptied it into an ordinary pail, which it just about filled. The exhibition was certainly a sight for the gods, but the shrewd Mr. Rhodes had a purpose in view quite beyond any mere gratification of the eye. He expressed his thanks and went away. Then he put his own big stock of diamonds on the market, knowing that Barney could not possibly be an immediate competitor, inasmuch as it would take at least three weeks to sort out the gems assembled in the bucket. The result was a great profit to Mr. Rhodes.

sembled in the bucket. The result was a great profit to Mr. Rhodes.

Some years ago a deposit of beautiful white diamonds of excellent water, was discovered at Inverel, in New South Wales. It was imagined that immense wealth was at hand, but the fact was subsequently disclosed that the stones were so remarkably hard as to be practically unworkable, the result being that the gems had to be sold for use in rock-drills. The natural diamond, of course, is comparatively unral diamond, of course, is comparatively unral diamond. had to be sold for use in rock-drills. The natural diamond, of course, is comparatively unbeautiful, depending upon cutting for the display of its marvelous beauties. This, by the way, did not prevent the potentates of the East Indies in ancient times, from appreciating diamonds as highly as we do to-day. The Koh-i-Noor, now the most prized gem in the British crown, was never cut during the period of centuries in which it became the property of a series of Oriental sovereigns. It was cut twice after coming into British hands, and one part of it was found so much harder and one part of it was found so much harder than the rest that it was almost impossible to

During the last twenty-five years, ten tons of diamonds, worth three hundred million dollars uncut and six hundred million dollars after cutting, have been added to the world's wealth—an amount more than twice as great as were known to exist before.

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ntributors must without exception be regular subso o Comfort, and every contribution must bear the wri name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on eme side of the paper only.

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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least see new Cousin into the Compour circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

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EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again March is with us. Coming in, as it always does in the northern States, "like a roaring lion," we bear with its mad frolics and fierce storms with what patience we may, hoping that when its reign is over it will "go out like a lamb" to make way for gentle April.

Our first letter this month takes us not only far from our bleak northern March winds but also "far from the madding crowd," and introduces us to scenes and people with which few of us are familiar.

scenes and people with which few of us are familiar.

"One of the most interesting and beautiful parts of California is off the line of railway travel, and so difficult of access that comparatively few people are familiar with it. Here the conditions of life are quiet and primitive, having changed but little from the customs prevalent all over the State when it was admitted to the Union, in 1848.

"Pala is twenty-five miles from Oceanside, where one leaves the train that connects Los Angeles and San Diego. It is reached only by private conveyance or the mail wagon, and the road follows the windings of the San Luis Rey river, or climbs long, steep hills; for the country is a broken one that becomes fairly mountainous ere Pala is reached.



"In the center of a lovely little valley stands the rained Mission of Pala, a branch of the noble San Luis Rey Mission. The scene is very picturesque—the green valley, encircled by the willow-bordered river, and hemmed in by purple mountains, the scattered adobe ranch houses under their shade of spreading umbrella trees, and the crumbling old Mission, with its curious white bell tower, detached from the Mission building.

"The Pauma Indians worship at this Mission, and were holding their annual fiesta at the time of my visit. These Indians are a revelation in their cleanliness, intelligence and thrift. They are fine-looking and dress well, living in comfortable homes, where the men till the soil and the women make baskets and intricate patterns of 'drawnwork' for sale. Their children are sent to the Government training schools, or convents.

"The funeral ceremonies of an Indian baby that took place in the Mission one morning were remarkable for being conducted by girls, in the absence of a priest. They sang hymns in Latin, Bpanish and English; and intoned the Catholic ritual for the dead, closing with a prayer for the soul of the departed infant, followed by the Lord's



crowd which had gathered turned to the merry-making of the fiesta.

crowd which had gathered turned to the merry-making of the fiesta.

"Large booths, called remathas, had been constructed of tules and willow boughs over a framework, and in these cancing and feasting were kept up for four days and four nights. One dance, known only to a few old Indians, was performed every day by Sebastian and his grandson, to whom he had taught it. Sebastian is a hero, for few white men are capable of such an act of self-sacrifice as he once committed. His only son, the pride of his heart, stole a cow, and sold it. Sebastian was grief-stricken, and determined to save his son from a prison, which might ruin the young man's whole life; so he swore that he had stolen the cow, and was sent to San Quentin for two years. As if this were not enough, Sebastian's beloved wife died the day before he regained his liberty. The son married, and after some years died of consumption, confessing his guilt before he passed away.

"It is worth while to witness an Indian fiesta among these mountains at night. The rustic remathas, surrounded by hundreds of brownskinned men, women and children, the merry strum of the guitars and violins, the camp-fires, the soft Spanish accent on every hand, the ruined Mission walls and gleaming belfry, with the moonlight over all, form a scene that does not appear to belong to the New World."

CLARA S. Brown, Los Angeles, Cal.

Now here is a letter which you ought to have had last summer: it was written then, but reached me

Now here is a letter which you ought to have had last summer; it was written then, but reached me too late to use. However, I think you will enjoy it equally as well now. Our cousin writes most charmingly of her day at Yale. She says:

joy it equally as well now. Our cousin writes most charmingly of her day at Yale. She says:

"Class Day at Yale is certainly one of the most pleasant and picturesque events of the whole week. And this particular Class Day was no exception to the rule. From a Yale man's point of view it is the last time the class will meet together to crack jokes and indulge in good-natured 'horsing,' so with true Yale dash he enters into the spirit of the thing and makes it a day long to be remembered by the visitor.

"It was a beautiful June afternoon and the seats of the huge amphitheatre erected on the campus, were filled with men and women in gala attire; each one adding his or her share to the brilliancy of the scene. Near the entrance a band was stationed playing college songs and national airs. All around and above us, forming a perfect background, were the famous old elims of New Haven.

"In the center on long benches sat the seniors in caps and gowns smoking the long white clay pipes sacred to Class Day. Here and there, looking strangely out of place with the black-gowned students were men in uniforms of the Army and Navy. These were the members of the class who so quietly laid aside their books and studies and loyally responded to their country's call. Por the time they were allowed to cast aside the discipline of camp and training-ship in order to graduate with their class.

"And what a happy, noisy, rollicking class it was! They roared with laughter when a class historian was unusually pungent in his 'hits.' When the name of a popular classmate was mentioned they shouted: 'Put him up!' and were not content till he had been soing the tothe gaze of an admiring and amused audience. When the 'boys in blue, were put up the cheers were deafening, for visitors and fellow students joined in that tribute to the soldier boys of Yale. Meantime the class pipe, an immense affair, beautifully carved and decorated, had been going the favorite college song 'Bright College Years,' and as I listened to that grand old hymn sung as onl

"Oh, let us strive that ever we May let these words our watch-cry be, Where'er upon life's sea we sall: 'For God, for Country, and for Yale.'" HELEN CLIFFORD, Gloversville, N. Y.

Here is an account of a wolf hunt written by a cousin in far-off North Dakota. He says:

Here is an account of a wolf hunt written by a cousir in far-off North Dakota. He says:

"Let me tell you of a wolf hunt which took place here a few days ago. The North Dakota wolf, or coyote, as he is called by the ranchers, is a long, slim, sorry-looking animal, with coarse hair, a bushy tail, and a long, sharp face. He is not so ravenous as the black wolf of the forest, but is very troublesome to the ranchers' sheep.

"The ranchers living near the Plateau du Coteau had many sheep killed by the wolves, so they decided to hunt and kill some of them. They met at a place known as Long Lake Ranch, where they made preparations for the hunt. Some of the men rode in a spring wagon and others on ponies. They all armed themselves with clubs, but took no gans. They started early in the morning, accompanied by half a dozen hounds who were eager for the sport. After riding about three miles the hounds scented a wolf's track, and they followed it until they came upon a half-starved wolf picking the bones of a dead sheep which some other wolves had devoured the previous night. The wolf, seeing the crowd of hunters and the hounds gave chase, and soon seized and held him until the hunters arrived at the place and despatched him with their clubs."

M. H. Wendland, Carrington, N. D.

A very well-written letter on volcanoes comes

A very well-written letter on volcances comes from cousin Charles W. Pullen of Kentucky, but I cannot use it because he has only written what we can read in books on such subjects. Now if he would only climb a volcano for our benefit, and tell us what he sees up there I would be exceedingly glad to get his letter.

Now we have some extracts from a letter describing a trip from Mexico to the States, by the way of Monterey and Eagle Pass. I wish I could give you the whole letter, for it is very interesting, but my space, alas, is too limited to admit of doing 50.

"We left Tampico about midnight—the next morning we found ourselves still climbing the mountains. When we reached the tableland it was a desolate scene. The bare, rocky mountains in the distance, bounding a level stretch of country, with no living thing except the cacti, and no habitation except the native villages. Such a clamor as arose each time the train stopped, from boys with fruits, hot tomales, and other things to sell! Some of these fruits are very delicious and refreshing. They must grow wild, as I saw no ground under cultivation; all the soil seems rich, but the lack of water in most parts of Mexico is the great trouble. "The Mexicans at these stations seemed abjectly poor, and their houses were no better than pens, being built with the ground for the floor, poles stuck into the ground forming the sides, and a thatched roof; simply an opening for the door, and no windows. I sincerely pitied the loneliness of the Americans who have charge of these stations, which in this section are few and many miles apart.

"When within a hundred miles of Monterey the

apart. "When within a hundred miles of Monterey the "When within a hundred miles of Monterey the scene changed, and became as lovely and attractive as it was grand and desolate before. We passed be actively haciendas surrounded by lands in a high state of cultivation, intersected in all directions by canals for irrigation. For many miles this side of Monterey the same state of cultivation delighted the cyc, but the next morning, all was disagreeable portion of the trip. We crossed the line at Eagle Pass during the night, and had not the slightest trouble about our baggage.

"For miles and miles on this side the line it is glimpse of some lover her had been lowered into the grave, and lover which I traveled from San borne to the burial ground by young girls and boys. After it had been lowered into the grave, men, women and children, in turn, took up a hand. Then the mother's grief burst the bonds of native stoicism and she walled unrestrainedly, while the

there is a charm, which amounts to fascination, in this spell from dreamland, which Mexico throws over-nearly all who visit her." Mrs. C. C. Malone, Hudsonville, Miss.

Now we have a letter from our valued correspondent, Mrs. Early, describing Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Va. She says:

Church in Williamsburg, Va. She says:

"Williamsburg was the old Colonial capital of Virginia, and Bruton Parish Church was built there more than two hundred years ago. It is in the form of a cross, and the eastern end is overrun with Englishivy. As we enter four tablets in the wall arrest our attention. One of them bears the following quaint inscription, 'Near this marble lyes ye Hon'ble Daniel Parke, of ye county of Essex, Eq., who was one of his Ma'tie's Counsellors' and sometime Secretary of the Collony of Virg's.



BRUTON PARISH CHURCH.

He dyed ye 6th of March, anno 1679. His other felicityes were crowned by his happy marriage with Rebekah, the daughter of George Evelyn of the County of Surry, Esq.'e. She died the 2d of Jan., 1672, at Long Ditton, in ye County of Surry and left behind her a most hopeful progeny.

"The next tablet is 'Inscribed to the memory of Dr. William Cocke, an English Physician born of reputable parents, at Sudsbury in Suffolk, 1672, and educated at Queen's College, Cambridge. He was learned and polite, of undisputed skill in his profession, of unbounded generosity in his practice, which mutitudes yet alive can testify. He was many years of the Council and Secretary of State for this Colony in the reign of Queen Anne and King George. He died suddenly, sitting a judge upon the bench of the General Court in the Capital.' M. D. C. C. XX.

"Going out of the church, we find ourselves in a large, shady churchyard, containing many tombstones, some of them over two centuries old, and with inscriptions so worn by rains that 'Old Mortality's' help is needed to decipher them. The old silver communion service of the Jamestown Episcopal church now belongs to Bruton Parish church, and is very massive. The cup bears the inscription 'Mixe not holy things with profane.'"

MARY W. EARLY, Williamsburg, Va.

I have received a very pleasaat letter from a Virginia niece on "a visit to Mars." It is well written,

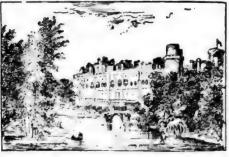
I have received a very pleasant letter from a Virginia niece on "a visit to Mars." It is well written, and shows a good deal of imagination and ability but I cannot give it a prize because our page is not intended for stories; so I can only thank our cousin for her offer and ask her to try again.
Our last prize letter this month is upon Warwick Castle.

Our last prize letter this month is upon Warwick Castle.

"Warwick Castle is in what a well-known writer has termed the Shakespeare country. It is only a few miles distant from Stratford, and is situated upon the same stream, the Avon—that flows through the poet's old home. Nowhere in England did I see more magnificent grounds than those surrounding this famous old Castle. The great stately trees, the beautiful flowers and shrubs, and the vivid green of the wide-spreading lawns, make a picture one cannot forget.

"While our party were wandering about here we sat down to rest beneath some very tall cedsrs. As we were looking up, admiring their beauty and size, an attendant of the castle passing by, informed us that the trees were the cedars of Lebanon, and the seeds from which they were first grown were brought by the Earls of Warwick from the Holy Land upon their return from the Crusades.

"Warwick Castle is in a state of perfect preservation, and all is grand and palatial. We entered first the Great Hall, a magnificent room rich in historical treasures in the way of books and antiquities. We were especially interested in a saddle used by Queen Elizabeth while on her journey from Warwick to be present et the great festivities at Kenilworth. Then there was an enormous suit of armor, a walking stick and a porridge-pot said to have belonged to Guy, Earl of Warwick, who lived in the tenth century, and who was a giant nine fer t high. nine fert high.



WARWICK CASTLE.

"As we passed out of the Great Hall we saw at the end of the long corridor the life-size portrait of Charles the First, painted by the great Dutch artist Van Dyke. So real was the picture it seemed almost as if the figure were actually riding towards us. Passing on we visited the Red Drawing Room and the Green Drawing Room, both of which contain magnificent paintings by Raphael, Rubens, Van Dyke, and other famous artists. In the Cedar Drawing Room is an exquisite bust of a goddess, the work of Hiram Powers, the American sculptor whose Greek Slave, we remember, made his name a famous one. One hall in the castle is called the Amour Passage. Here is a very large collection of ancient armour, crossbows, battle axes, pikes, arquebuses, daggers, etc. "But few rooms of the castle are open to visitors, as the greater part of it is made up of the private apartments of the Earl and his family. With all the magnificence and beauty of Warwick Castle we learned that Lady Warwick was discontented there. She much preferred the excitement of London life. "Well I declare,' remarked an old lady in our party. 'I must say it takes a great deal to satisfy some folks.' And we all agreed with her.'"

ELIZABETH WOODS, Batavia, N. Y.
Now let us listen to a North Dakota consin while

Now let us listen to a North Dakota cousin while

"After lunch came the woodmen's parade. The boy band of Ortonville was followed by men in white uniforms trimmed with red, and tall caps adorned with big red tassels on top; a banner, the cornet band, a pair of goats, and then men wearing immense boots and carrying an ax so large that it took two men to hold it upright, went by; and then we returned to our camp from which we watched the fireworks in the evening.

S. R. PALMER, Marvin, S. D.

I must not forget to thank my niece. Marion Wilkerson, of Garvin, Texas, for her pleasant letter on the home of Edgar Allan Poe, of which I can only find room for the following extract.

only find room for the following extract.

"In the Northern Diatrict of New York City is a small old Dutch Cottage of three rooms, with a porch extending along its entire front, which was the home of Edgar Allan Poe and his lovely wife during the last four years of the poet's life. We followed up the little winding stair to the attic room which Poe used for his study, and where he wrote his most noted works.

"The house, I think, has recently been purchased and opened to the public by the Shakespeare Society of New York."

Here is an extract from another heavitable was

Here is an extract from another beautifully writ-

ten letter on Venice, but which does not win a prize as it is only the result of reading and not of a personal visit. It says:

personal visit. It says:

"Venice is the most novel city in the world, being the only one that has its streets of water instead of land. Venice has a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, and has one hundred and fifty canals. The largest of these is in the shape of the letter S, and runs through the most beautiful part of the city. These canals intersect one another at many angles, and four thousand gondolas are constantly busy conveying passengers to and fro about the city, which is built upon one hundred and seventeen islands, large and small, which are now protected on every side by solid stone masonry.

MATILDA M. WEST, Long, Ga.

Now my space is filled so I must keep the rest of

Now my space is filled so I must keep the rest of my letters for another month; and with heartiest good wishes for the happiness and welfare of each and all of the cousins I will say good-bye.

AUNT MINERVA.

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NATIONAL FARMER, A



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

T is pretty early yet to talk about vaca-tions—but still a lite planning does no harm. Why not take it a-wheel this year? And if you have a wife or sister or daugh-

ter, plan to take her along too. Few women have yet learned the possibilities of the wheel in this direction, and,

bilities of the wheel in this direction, and, as a rule, confine themselves to the minor pleasure of short daily runs in the immediate neighborhood of home.

The contrast between a short run and a week's tour is as great as that felt by a yachtsman taking an occasional sail down the bay or a delightful month's cruise along the coast. Starting away into the open of vague uncertainty carries with it a delightful feeling of elation and freedom; one leaves behind the tameness of security, and eagerly challenges the unknown of time and events.

In wheeling, as in many other sports, the first requisite is sound health. No woman should undertake a tour who is not fortified with a strong constitution. She should be in such good condition as to meet with indifference the discomforts incident to a traveler dependent upon chance accommodations; she

such good condition as to meet with indifference the discomforts incident to a traveler dependent upon chance accommodations; she should have a surplus of energy to resist fatigue, a fortitude equal to occasional hard work or ill luck, and the power to brave inclemencies of wind and weather.

As early in the spring as the weather permits, daily rides on the wheel should be taken, at first very moderate as to distance and duration, and as varied as possible as regards the nature of country ridden over. One soon learns what she is equal to, whether fifteen miles or fifty a day is her limit, and it is always safer to keep well within the limit; whether she can climb a hill or must walk it—and here pride must sometimes be set aside, for all women have not the same limit of endurance.

If you are going abroad, it is well to join one of the foreign Tourist Clubs. Membership in the French club (obtainable through Col. Francis M. Hesseltine of Boston), is very helpful. The Italian road-book is also excellent. For travel in Germany and Switzerland it is desirable, in addition to the above-mentioned road-books (French and Italian), to make frequent reference to the sectional bicycle maps, published in Leipsic.

road-books (French and Italian), to make frequent reference to the sectional bicycle maps, published in Leipsic.

If one is going to travel in England it is very desirable to become a member of the English Touring Club (C. T. C.), and it will be better to secure one's membership through the United States Consul (Mr. Frank Weston of Boston), before leaving this country. In this way one has her membership ticket ready for immediate use on landing; and having secured the road use on landing; and having secured the road and hand books of the club, she can from them

more easily plan a trip.

The road-book gives routes all over England, with mileage and minute descriptions of the roads; the hand-book is very useful in giving addresses of local consuls and name of club

hotels.

C. T. C. membership entitles one to reduced rates at club hotels. These hotels are almost

they carry into cycling with them, such as the carrying of some lucky pocket piece or charm. Such notions are not, however, distinctive as cycling superstition. They were born in the mind of their victims before they ever rode

a wheel. There are some superstitions, though, that are peculiar to cyclists.

One of the most common is that about turn-

one of the most common is that about turning around. The academy-taught rider always, and the average rider usually, prefers a turn to the left. In their neophyte days most riders have met with a fall because of attempting to turn to the right, and this has led many into a fearful state of mind that makes

many into a fearful state of mind that makes them prefer to dismount rather than risk the consequence of a turn to the right.

The consequence is that the superstition about turning around is not only the most common, but also the most dangerous. There have been many mishaps on the road due to the inability of a rider to wheel right about, or his obstinacy in trying to wheel about left.

One man, who asserts to be a philosopher.

One man, who asserts to be a philosopher, says that he is not superstitious, and is especially innocent of the old country superstition about crossing a funeral, but he admits that he about crossing a funeral, but he admits that he always waits until one passes, just out of respect for the circumstances. Then he tells with grave earnestness a story that details how he rode along Fifth Avenue and encountered "a funeral cortege" that was crossing at 9th street. He slowed his wheel and questioned himself concerning whether or not he should cross it. While he was deliberating, two other cyclists traveling in opposite directions attempted to cross between the carriages. They collided and fell, and one was struck by the hoofs of a funeral coach horse and severely hurt. This happening, he thinks, justified the deference that is not superstition.

A stout man of my acquaintance knows that

deference that is not superstition.

A stout man of my acquaintance knows that every time he wears a certain shirt he is bound to get a puncture, and some of his friends tell a story about his having missed a century run because this puncture-causing shirt was the only clean one that he possessed.

Still more comical in the line of puncture superstition is that of a man who chews gum to prevent punctures. The use of chewing gum for repairing punctures is well known, but this individual, who is an expert billiardist, to use his own expression, "gives that play a grand discount."

He is a twin in superstition to the man who

discount."

He is a twin in superstition to the man who believes that if he forgets his umbrella it is bound to rain, but that he can prevent the clouds from weeping by carrying it. In his own words his story is: "I am a gum-chewing fiend, and the two times when I got punctures were the only two times for months that I was out riding without any in my mouth. It may seem foolish, but I won't mount my wheel now until I have a wad of gum in my mouth."

There is a rider, too, who will not pump his

There is a rider, too, who will not pump his tires before going out, believing that if they have not remained hard it presages misfortune; and there are said to be others who entertain similar sentiments concerning filling a lamp and oiling bearings. This class of rider thinks that if he has neglected to have his wheel in perfect condition for an immediate mount he

and darts about like a human fly. A stout net is stretched below about twenty-five feet to catch her in case of accident. She uses an ordinary diamond frame wheel attached by some sort of harness to a track. She also has a stout leather belt and two steel rods well padded from her shoulders that fasten her securely to the wheel. To say that she creates a sensition the wheel. To say that she creates a sensation is putting it mildly.

It will be remembered that in a recent issue I will be remembered that in a recent issue I gave a hint that farmers' wives might knit bicycle stockings for pay. Mrs. A Hamilton of Breckinridge, Minn., would be pleased to hear from any one desiring such work done. As I have repeatedly said, it is impossible to give addresses of manufacturers of specialties in this department. They properly belong in the advertising columns. Carpets and Furniture from the Maker We save you so to do per cent. on everything, Our Lithographed Catalogue of Carpete, Ruga Art figuress, Portiferes and Lace Curtains show exact designs in hand-painted color. We sew Carpets free, furnish liting free and pre-pay freight. We are covering the civilized world with carpets—and why? Our catalogue will tell you. Do you think we would spend a million dollars annually advertising these catalogues if they were not worth baving? Both books are free 29c. to 81. Which do you want? Address this way, JULIUS HINES & SON, Baltimore, Md. The Asbestos Pio an ordinary pipe full tobacco and will last for years. Sample by mail with catalog to agents to the control of the control o



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affords.

There are two essentials for a successful trip still unmentioned—a pocket-book not large; and last, but most important of all, a companion whose congeniality has previously been put to the proof.

COMFORT readers, however—that is, the mass of them—will pass their vacations on this side. But remember there is a great deal of enjoyment to be had in a week's trip a-wheel in our country districts and broad prairies.

Somebody has been collecting the superstitions that pertain to a bicycle. It seems that bicycling superstition, as a special and altogether distinct form of superstition, is a recognized fact of the road.

It is a common notion which amounts to a superstition that the only way to start on a trip is to conceive the idea suddenly, grab one's wheel and mount it without examining any part. So many good times have been had following impromptu starts of this kind that hundreds believe any other kind of a start to

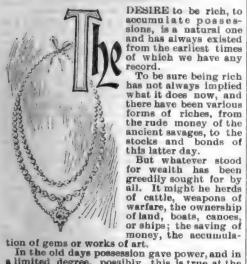
One of the curiosities that will abound at the great terms to be had in a week's trip a-wheel in our country districts and broad prairies.

Somebody has been collecting the superstitions that pertain to a bicycle. It seems that bicycling superstition, as a special and altogether distinct form of superstition, is a recognized fact of the road.

Naturally there are many ridiculous beliefs with which men and women are afflicted that

Where Money and Jewels are Kept. and securely locked, and cut coupons.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DESIRE to be rich, to accumulate posses-sions, is a natural one and has always existed from the earliest times of which we have any record.

In the old days possession gave power, and in a limited degree, possibly, this is true at the present time, and has always been true. To gain possessions men have fought, labored, planned, and given the best part of their life. The methods they have employed have differed as the times in which they have lived have been different, but the end sought for has been still the same.

as the times in which they have lived have been different, but the end sought for has been still the same.

But with the accumulation of possession comes the added care and responsibility. Once gained it must be looked after, and means devised to keep it safe. One can have nothing in this world, without having at the same time a feeling of responsibility, and care becomes a constant companion.

In the savage days men made forays on their neighbors' lands and drove away all the cattle and herds. Forever after they must be on guard lest they in turn be robbed, and lose by violence and theft what they had gained in that same way. In these days there is no more feeling of security. If one acquires a piece of property, there is first the question of a clear title. Then comes the fear of loss by fire, flood or whirlwind. Does the young woman obtain a few thousand dollars' worth of gems and precious stones? Her dreams are of burglars, and she is in fear lest she lose her valued possessions. That seems to be, if it may be so expressed, a part of the price of wealth.

It is to restore as far as may be, the feeling of security, that so many plans of caring for this accumulation of riches have been devised.

The various "Title Insurance" companies that exist in every city of any size were formed to examine all titles to real estate, so that when one wishes to purchase a piece of property he may by the outlay of a few dollars, have the title sofficially examined by men who understand the methods, and if they pronounce the title valid, the property may be safely purchased.

Then there are the fire insurances, with

Then there are the fire insurances, with which all are familiar; the marine insurances, which insure ships and their cargoes, lessening danger of loss to those who follow the sea for a livelihood, and risk money on the ocean traffic; the hurricane insurance clause in consection with five insurance which insurance. ection with fire insurance, which insures gainst cyclones and other destructive storms. his is well as far as it goes, but what safety is

This is well as far as it goes, but what safety is there for the personal property, the money, the bonds and securities? The best in the world. It is to care for all such property that the Trust companies have been organized in all the cities in the Union. Some cities, like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston have several of these companies. They are incorporated under State laws, and are subject to the same supervision by the Bank Commissioners as are all National and Savings Banks.

Their object is to do a general Banking and Trust company business. They receive money on deposit and allow interest on it, they give special rates of interest on time deposits, they are a legal depository for trust funds, corporations, firms and individuals; they accept trusts created by will, or otherwise, and assume the care and management of property, and collection of incomes, act as trustee under mortages of any railroad or corporation, and as transfer agent of the stock of incorporated companies.

transfer agent of the stock of incorporated companies.

You see the work covers a great deal of ground. Although these Trust companies exist, as has been said, in every city, I have chosen one of Boston for description, as it embodies all the newest features of bank architecture, and is absolutely fire, water and bargiar proof.

The building itself is very beautiful. It is of rich dark Quincy granite and pale yellow Indiana limestone, the combination giving an exquisite effect of color. The interior is all in tiling and mosaic, the floors being beautifully inlaid, while the walls show the most graceful designs. The stairways are of marble, and the railings of brass. There is very little wood used so that fire would have next to nothing to feed on. But the most wonderful part is that devoted to the vaults where all the valuables are kept.

There is one man only in this country who is an accepted bank vault builder; these vaults were built under his personal supervision, and are pronounced the most thoroughly constructed ever attempted.

And yet they look so airy and light, with the

are pronounced the most thoroughly constructed ever attempted.

And yet they look so airy and light, with the outer wall of tiling, the soft gray of the steel, the electric lights, the spacious rooms, and the air so pure and dry, unlike that of the ordinary vault; that it is not until you begin to look about and examine that you realize how strong

about and examine that you are the list.

And this is the way the vault is built.

In the first place there is a wall of two feet of solid masonry. Then there is a cage made of interlooked railroad iron rails surrounding the vaults on all sides, front, back, top, bottom, sides and vestibules, inside the wall of masonry. These bars of iron are not riveted, in the old-fashioned manner, but are bent and weldsides and vestibules, inside the wan or masonry. These bars of iron are not riveted, in the
old-fashioned manner, but are bent and welded, so that the joining is invisible. The iron
surface is then thickly covered with cement,
to cover any interstice which may be between the interlocked iron; then the whole is
lined with plates of Crone steel, thoroughly
tested and proven drill proof. The two outside
vault doors are eight and a quarter inches thick,
of solid metal, fastened by a combination of
locks that would defy any burglar.

Inside the vault are little coupon rooms,
where any depositor may sit, entirely concealed

At the entrance are the vaults, inside the heavy grills of iron, which are locked, but swing open at the touch of the attendant to give entrance to the vault. But no one is allowed inside which the vault. lowed inside who is not known to the guard, and he must answer the description which, if he is a depositor, the guard has against his

he is a depositor, the guard has against his name.

Behind these polished steel grills, with their doors, is the deposit vault, holding several thousand boxes of various sizes which rent according to size from ten dollars to two hundred and fifty a year. Each of these boxes has a different lock, and none of them can be unlocked, except the master key be first applied. This key is kept by the guardian of the vault, and when a box renter wishes to open his box he notifies the guardian who unlocks the governing lock with the master key, and then the renter's key finishes the work.

There are several boxes which are known as trustee's boxes. These have three or more locks, according to the number of trustees who are interested. Each trustee has a separate key, and the box cannot be opened without the master key, and both of the other keys. Consequently no one trustee can open the box, except in the presence of the fellow trustee, and both, in the presence of the guardian.

Thus every presence of the interest of hon-

both, in the presence of the guardian.

Thus every precaution in the interest of hon-

Thus every precaution in the interest of honesty is taken.

There are inner vaults for the storing of plate, valuable bric-a-brac, and jewelry. Every woman of society who has valuable gems keeps them in the deposit vaults. They are very seldom out of their resting places. They certainly are not taken away with the owners when they go to other cities or to fashionable watering places. It often happens that the woman who has a fortune in jewels, has them reproduced in brilliants, and that it is these that she wears at the splendid functions which she graces with her presence. Mind you, she

that she wears at the splendid functions which she graces with her presence. Mind you, she does not wear anything but the reproduction of what she owns; she is not going to risk the real ones by wearing them generally, or keeping them in her own private safe.

The locks to the immense doors are marvels of ingenuity, and of the lockmakers' art. They are set in many ways; sometimes for a certain hour, and they cannot be opened before that hour, no matter how much any one may wish to get inside. And the time lock must be opened before any of the letter or number combinations will work.

So you see the solid masonry defies fire, water

So you see the solid masonry defies fire, water and the "thieves who break in and steal." There is no need, in this stronghold, of flooding the vaults with water when the bank is closed, as they do in the Bank of England to insure the safety of the millions of treasure stored there. stored there

And isn't it worth something to have a com-And But it worth something to have a com-pany that will give peace of mind and a feeling of safety, as well as to guard your possessions? Anyhow there are a sufficient number of per-sons who think so to make the Trust Com-panies handsomely paying institutions. "There is no great loss without some small gain."

gain."

And, yet, notwithstanding all this, it is a real comfort to those of us who haven't large possessions nor are likely to attain them, that we have no worry over what may happen. The ringing of the fire bells at night, the story of some bank robbery or defalcation pass us by, except as we have time to pity those who suffer.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine,



THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT BY CHARLES HODGOON.



OW often we have wished we could go to some one who would be able to advise us what to read. What books to obtain for our guides, what to choose for our companions.

panions.

This comes home to those of us especially who never can go to college, either for the reason of the condition

college, either for the reason of the condition of our circumstances, or because it is too late. And we fall to wondering if it is any use to try to educate ourselves; then hope which springs eternal, urges us on and we remember how many of the world's great men were self-educated, how Prof. Dorpfeld never went to college and is the greatest living authority on Greek antiquities. We are reminded that it was only a short time since he lectured at Harvard College, how her most learned professors felt honored to sit at his feet and learn from him who never had received the advantages they had. The world is full of proofs of men who have become learned and great and never had the college degree of A. B. bestowed on them.

We who have toiled and wandered among

We who have toiled and wandered among the wastes of books so long, and lost so much of our lives in our quest, may perhaps give warnings to younger travelers; for the difficul-ties of literature are as great as those of life it-

of our lives in our quest, may perhaps give warnings to younger travelers; for the difficulties of literature are as great as those of life itself.

You may ask, will book learning help me to win my living? Of course it will. Some of the ablest men in public affairs could earn their bread as men of letters; Henry Cabot Lodge and many others of our statesmen could without doubt earn large incomes from their literary work. Some of our best business men are accomplished bookmen.

Then again a knowledge of literature and a familiarity with history and facts will enable one to be more influential and to fill a larger position in public affairs. Literature, too, kindles thought and drives away sadness, and creates fortitude to bear the burdens of life.

The great difficulty, then, is to choose the books from the thousands with which our libraries are stocked; it is the multiplicity that makes the choice not an easy task. Now many literary men have prepared lists of books for inquiring readers. Sir John Lubbock, the English scientist and man of letters, made a list of books called, "The Best Hundred Books."

It is questioned if that is a wise course to pursue; many students think that such a course kills individuality, a quality that should be carefully cherished and developed. It is rather better to give a few hints and put the way-farer on the right track, and let him develop his character himself and so preserve his own individuality.

There are, however, a few books written about books which will give an insight into which ones you should read and own. Frederic Harrison, the English historical student and critic, has written two books which are invaluable to one who would be started right. "The Choice of Books" and "The Meaning of History," which will open up the way. It would also be hard to find a better list of books than Ralp Waldo Emerson describes in his essay entitled "Books."

After you obtain your books, you should read them, which alas! many do not. One petent resson is because they do not get books prin

catalogue, will give you a chance to make a selection. If you have a bookseller he will be glad to procure these catalogues for you.

Now the point is not that every one should have a large number of books, but it is that they should have the right ones; fifty well-chosen books would be a little treasury.

Charles Eliot Norton, professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, once said that Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Milton were enough to make any one a valuable citizen. Emerson

says:
"Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wis-dom. The men themselves were hid and in-accessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette, but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."

Furthermore a book worth reading once is worth reading twice, and the masterpleces you can read a thousand times.

Rufus Choate, one of America's most noted lawyers, it is said, attributed his success to the fact that he managed someway to get an hour a day to read a standard book. He was busier than most of us. Now cannot you manage to read one half-hour each day? If you read one book from Homer's Iliad, or a book from Virgil's Aeneid or something from Tennyson or Words-worth, say the lines on Tintern each day and

multiply that by three hunared and sixty-five, you would make such progress you would surprise yourself, be a source of pride to your friends, and a help to the world.

Do not neglect the Ancient Classics because you cannot read Latin and Greek. Mr. Emerson says he would as soon swim across a river, instead of going over on the bridge, as to read a book in the original, when he could get it in the mother tongue.

Be not discouraged because you may forget what you read; it is no more necessary to remember where you obtained your intellectual food, than it is to be able to recall what you have eaten, in order to know your bodily have eaten, in order to know your bodily strength.

Literature is one of the instruments of man-

kind; can you afford to let others arm them-selves, while you are defenseless? "Armed with reason and braced with knowledge", stand forth in all the panoply of steadfastness and courage.

A New Illuminant.



OR the same degree of light from the new acetylene gas, there is much less heat given out than from the common illuminating gas. The illuminating gas is as twelve of acetylene to one of the common kind. The incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts as

incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts a shade in the light of the usual acetylene flame of one inch square; while the latter is fully as steady, when supplied from the tanks of liquor the form in which the gas is furnished to customers. When vent is afforded to the contents this expands to gas, making 400 times the bulk of the liquid. It is practically non explosive. The tanks are iron cylinders, with pressure gauge attached. The vent is at the top of the cylinder if upright, or in the upper side, if horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with cylinder it upright, or in the upper side, it horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with single burner, or with chandelier, or piping for several lights, or even the entire piping of the house. There are also single stationary and portable lamps with tanks connected. So compressible is this gas that a three months' supply for a large house can be stored in a cylinder six inches in diameter and four and a half feet long; and it can be delivered by wagon, or by railroad, express or freight, as the case requires. The price for this quantity of liquified gas is ten dollars—the tank and fixtures being five dollars, and barring accident, will last a lifetime. Fifteen cents' worth of the acetylene liquid will give as much light as a thousand cubic feet of common illuminating gas—the price of which varies from about one dollar to five dollars per thousand. The gas arises directly from the decomposition of water by carbide of calcium—a substance made by fusing coal dust and lime together in an electric furnace.

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Rio, Wis,

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Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.

Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.

Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.

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I Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.

I Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.

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THE STRIKERS' VICTIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT.

PEAKING of strikes," remarked my chance acquaintance, as he closed the window and settled him-self back in his seat, "calls up an incident in my own experience that has effectually de-



has effectually destroyed any sympathy I might otherwise have for either party to such a rupture. Did you notice those old-fashioned mills, or rather, their ruins, about three miles back? Probably not, as in the face of our modern institutions of that nature they are insignificant enough, but in their day they were of considerable importance, I assure you. Why, at one time they were at one time they were giving employment, directly or otherwise,

giving employment, directly or otherwise, to about every man in the valley. That was just before the beginning of the strike about which I am going to teil.

"It was forty years ago—oh, yes, we had strikes then sometimes, though they were not under the organized management of the present day. Neither side was answerable for any act, except to the law, which you know in such cases is very apt to be disregarded. I don't remember what first started the controversy. It does not matter, anyway; it was started and all at once the mills were forced to shut down, and the teamsters and farmers suddenly found their source of supply cut off and were compelled to suffer equally with those who were in the strike, though probably the greater part of them never knew what the quarrel was about. "Things began to look desperate in the course of a week or two for the families that depended on the mills for their living, and the managers decided to send away for what new men were necessary to take the places of those who still refused to work, hoping in this way to, at least, provide employment for their faithful hands. I was offered the position of foreman and promptly accepted it, as I was at that time young and of just the right disposition to rather enjoy the prospect of a contest with the strikers, coupled with no little personal risk.

young and of just the right disposition to rather enjoy the prospect of a contest with the strikers, coupled with no little personal risk.

"The evening of the day on which I received the offer found me at the station we have just passed, awaiting the arrival of the train up the branch from the mills. The train was long past due and in my eagerness to reach the scene of my future labors every minute I was forced to wait seemed fully equal to ten.

""Waiting to go up to the mills?" said a voice beside me. "It's no use to-night. They dars'n't run the train. You see the men have word that a new foreman is to come up this evening and they have made a vow that he won't reach there unless he walks over. The engineers all know the men mean business and you may take my word for it, there won't a train go up the branch to-night."

"I ought to have known better than to fall

orance to-night.

"I ought to have known better than to fall into the trap set for me, especially as I felt at the time the fellow was lying, but somehow the over-due train and my own impatience prompted me to act on a course that my better judgment could not for a moment have endorsed; that is walk

prompted me to act on a course that my better judgment could not for a moment have endorsed; that is, walk.

"It was now quite dark; that is, as dark as it would become, for there was a full moon. With my attention divided between indignation at this early interference with my discharge of my duties and an attempt to formulate some course of action appropriate for the morrow, (which I now felt convinced would bring an open contest), I walked rapidly up the track, and in the course of half an hour found myself at a lofty treatle less than a mile from the mill.

"Probably my attention was almost anywhere except where it ought to have been—on my own surroundings. At this point I was suddenly startled by an unnatural flash of light before my eyes, followed by absolute darkness. Half unconscious as I was I vaguely realized the exact cause of it all. I had been approached from behind and struck with a club or some such weapon. When I came to myself it was to face some half-dozen rough, hard faces and to find that I was bound and gagged.

"Facell' hissed one of them in my ear. 'You

gagged. 'Fool!' hissed one of them in my ear. 'You

"Fool! hissed one of them in my ear. 'You thought the train would never come, but it is coming, and your own miserable careass shall be made to hurl it from the trestle to its destruction. Hark! Do you hear it?'
"Yes, I could hear it thundering along far down the valley but every moment getting dreadfully near, for at the same time I realized that my assailants had boundame hand and foot to one of the rails just at the end of the trestle.

"There was no hope and such a death!

"There was no hope and such a death!

"Were you ever forced to lie perfectly helpless and listen to the approach of certain death? I reckon not, nor have I ever had the enemy that I would like to have endure even an instant of the torture I endured that night. It is sometimes difficult to become reconciled after a desperate battle with disease has robbed us of a part of our vitality, and left us less to live for. But to the young, with most of the privileges of life untasted and all life's golden opportunities for action still open, it is even more terrible to give up. Add then, to this, the inability to stand and face death the while his instrument could be distinctly heard approaching and its progress traced with a completeness quite foreign to the subtle advancement of discase, and there is added an actual horror that can never be appreciated until realized. Already I could feel the earth tremble beneath the tread of the approaching monster. My time indeed was very short. The fiends who had placed me there had left the spot, satisfied that they had done their work well. Ah! truly I should never hold the foreman's place in the mills. My head was in such a position that I could feel the glare of the headlight, and it added to my terror as it glided up. Would reason stay with me till the end or would the engine strike the body of a madman? And then, a soft hand touched my own and a young girl's face, the loveliest that I have ever seen before or since, bent over me while those white hands tore wildly at the fastenings that bound me. The

train came nearer, nearer, was upon us, almost, but the knots would not yield. 'My God! Too late!' She almost shrieked. 'My father. Forgive him, won't you, for my sake?'
"One moment she stood there, I well knew

imploring forgiveness for the man whose hands had helped secure me there, and the next, the train had come. Stupidly I watched it glide

train had come. Stupidly I watched it glide up, on, on, across the trestle and finally come to a standstill.

"Indistinctly I heard the trainmen running back to where I lay. Dimly I realized that they were cutting the ropes; that I was free. And the girl; the beautiful face: why did not she return? Suddenly there flashed upon me a certain degree of returning sense and I sprang to my feet. Alas! Full well I realized the whole truth then. The track was double and my captors by mistake had tied me on the wrong track. But the girl, in that step back during her last appeal for the father whose deed she abhored, had placed herself in the way of the locomotive and been knocked from the trestle.

"True to the memory of that appeal I never

"True to the memory of that appeal I never have yet divulged the name of my captor of that night, though I thought at the time he would have preferred to have me do so.

"At the funeral of the single victim of his plot the element of lawlessness died away among the strikers and peace was restored. The same day I severed my connections with the place

"Sometimes—to-day for instance—there is a longing to go to that grave but something always seems to stand before me and motion me back,

and I have never gone.

"That, then, is why I have so little sympathy with either side in labor troubles when violence is resorted to. For in a moment I had learned to love that girl and to hate all that for the sake of the gain could cause so much of purity and truth and innocence to suffer."

Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NLY a short time ago the world was startled by a series of successful experiments which were held which demonstrated the possibility of wireless telegraphy. The spotchosen for the experiments was on the shores of Long Island, and water was the meby a series of success and water was the medium used for carry-

ing the current.

Two copper plates were submerged in the salt water, several miles apart, and were connected by an in-sulated copper wire. The circuit also contained a battery and a telegraph key. The current from the battery, then, when the key was closed, passed from the battery to from the battery to the end of the wire, to the submerged copper

the submerged copper plate, and then back to the other copper plate and the battery through the water.

A current passing through the water does not go back in a straight line, but spreads out in radiating rays, as do the ripples of water when one throws a stone into a quiet pond. So the water between the two submerged copper plates is permeated in all directions by the electrical current.

To illustrate this point more fully, take a straight bar magnet and lay it upon a table. Cover it with a sheet of paper and sprinkle upon this iron filings. Tap the paper gently and the filings will distribute themselves in the same manner that the current distributes itself through the water.

the same manner that the current distributes itself through the water.

On this principle it has been demonstrated that an impulse sent through a shore wire ten miles long can be felt ten miles from shore.

By means of a receiver dropped into the water within the area covered by the radiation of the impulses, the message of the shore wire may be read. For very long distances, delicate instruments, such as are used for taking messages from ocean cables, would need to be used; for comparatively short distances a telephone receiver, with its resistance greatly reduced was found to fill all needs.

To the telephone receiver, connected by in-

To the telephone receiver, connected by insulated wires, were attached two copper plates which were hung in the water parallel to the shore wire and in the area of the radiating impulses. The opening and the closing of the telegraph key on shore could then be plainly heard.

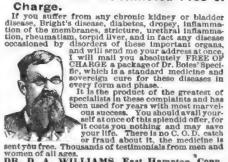
The inventors or discoverers were satisfied that their theories in regard to this matter were correct, and though the experiment did no more than convince them that they were in the right track, it was regarded as highly important and most significant.

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Feb. 16th was Maine day. One year ago that date our proud ship was blown up in Havana harbor. Since, we have had war, now it's peace. We have some war buttons, to kinds, gotten up for the times and cannot fail to please. We will send you two large and two small all different if you will send 13c. for mailing with our Giant Bargain Book. Better write to-day, money back if you wish Sunshine Button Dep't., Augusta, Maine.

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GOLDEN MOTIENTS, Augusta, Maine.

THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT BY CHARLES HODGDON.



college, either for the reason of the condition of our circumstances, or because it is too late. And we fall to wondering if it is any use to try to educate ourselves; then hope which springs eternal, urges us on and we remember how many of the world's great men we're self-educated, how Prof. Dorpfeld never went to college and is the greatest living authority on Greek antiquities. We are reminded that it was only a short time since he lectured at Harvard College, how her most learned professors felt honored to sit at his feet and learn from him who never had received the advantages they had. The world is full of proofs of men who have become learned and great and never had the college degree of A. B. bestowed on them.

We who have toiled and wandered among the water of books so long and lost so much

We who have toiled and wandered among the wastes of books so long, and lost so much of our lives in our quest, may perhaps give warnings to younger travelers; for the difficul-ties of literature are as great as those of life it-

ties of literature are as great as those of life itself.

You may ask, will book learning help me to win my living? Of course it will. Some of the ablest men in public affairs could earn their bread as men of letters; Henry Cabot Lodge and many others of our statesmen could without doubt earn large incomes from their literary work. Some of our best business men are accomplished bookmen.

Then again a knowledge of literature and a familiarity with history and facts will enable one to be more influential and to fill a larger position in public affairs. Literature, too, kindles thought and drives away sadness, and creates fortitude to bear the burdens of life.

The great difficulty, then, is to choose the books from the thousands with which our libraries are stocked; it is the multiplicity that makes the choice not an easy task. Now many literary men have prepared lists of books for inquiring readers. Sir John Lubbock, the English scientist and man of letters, made a list of books called, "The Best Hundred Books."

It is questioned if that is a wise course kills individuality, a quality that should be carefully cherished and developed. It is rather better to give a few hints and put the way-farer on the right track, and let him develop his character himself and so preserve his own individuality.

There are, however, a few books written

er better to give a few hints and put the wayfarer on the right track, and let him develop
his character himself and so preserve his own
individuality.

There are, however, a few books written
about books which will give an insight into
which ones you should read and own. Frederic Harrison, the English historical student
and critic, has written two books which are
invaluable to one who would be started right,
"The Choice of Books" and "The Meaning of
History," which will open up the way. It
would also be hard to find a better list of books
than Ralph Waldo Emerson describes in his
essay entitled "Books."

After you obtain your books, you should
read them, which alas! many do not. One potent reason is because they do not get books
printed with good type. Not one person in
one hundred, I venture, realizes that they
would read a book with good print where tney
lay aside a book printed with small, battered
and worn out type. You will be surprised how
much pride and satisfaction you will take in
books with sharp, clear type, good paper and
good binding. There are publishers who make
it their aim to get their books up in a neat,
workmanlike manner and with exquisite taste.
The Globe edition of the poets, Shakespeare,
Milton, Burns, Spencer, Wordsworth, Shelley,
etc., are a delight to handle. Then there are
the Bohn Libraries, which contain translations
of nearly all the ancient Classics, which Emerson and Carlyle took pains to recommend to
their readers. These editions are all inexpensive. Do not think of getting those miserable
twenty-five cent wood pulp, abominably printed books. You cannot get interested in their
contents and you conclude you are to blame,
when it is really the fault of the books.

You can get good books very reasonably if
you only know how to set about it. If you live
away from a large city, insist that your dealer
gets what you want. If there is no book-dealer in your town, a letter addressed to the large
to publishing hou.ses in New York, asking for their
catalogue, will give you

catalogue, will give you a chance to make a selection. If you have a bookseller he will be glad to procure these catalogues for you.

Now the point is not that every one should have a large number of books, but it is that they should have the right ones; fifty well-chosen books would be a little treasury.

Charles Eliot Norton, professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, once said that Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Milton were enough to make any one a valuable citizen. Emerson

says:
"Consider what you have in the smallest "Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittlest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette, but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."

Furthermore a book worth reading once is

Furthermore a book worth reading once is worth reading twice, and the masterpieces you can read a thousand times.

Rufus Choate, one of America's most noted lawyers, it is said, attributed his success to the fact that he managed someway to get an hour a day to read a standard book. He was busier than most of us. Now cannot you manage to read one half-hour each day? If you read one book from Homer's Iliad, or a book from Virgil's Aeneid or something from Tennyson or Words-worth, say the lines on Tintern each day and

multiply that by three humored and sixty-five, you would make such progress you would surprise yourself, be a source of pride to your friends, and a help to the world.

Do not neglect the Ancient Classics because you cannot read Latin and Greek. Mr. Emerson says he would as soon swim across a river, instead of going over on the bridge, as to read a book in the original, when he could get it in the mother tongue.

Be not discouraged because you may forget what you read; it is no more necessary to remember where you obtained your intellectual food, than it is to be able to recall what you have eaten, in order to know your bodily strength.

Literature is one of the instruments of mankind; can you afford to let others arm themselves, while you are defenseless? "Armed with reason and braced with knowledge", stand forth in all the panoply of steadfastness and courage.

courage.

A New Illuminant.



OR the same degree of light from the new acetylene gas, there is much less heat given out than from the common illuminating gas. The illuminating power to a cubic foot of gas is as twelve of acetylene to one of the common kind. The incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts a

incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts a shade in the light of the usual acetylene flame of one inch square; while the latter is fully as steady, when supplied from the tanks of liquor the form in which the gas is furnished to customers. When vent is afforded to the contents this expands to gas, making 400 times the bulk of the liquid. It is practically non explosive. The tanks are iron cylinders, with pressure gauge attached. The vent is at the top of the cylinder if upright, or in the upper side, if horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with cylinder it upright, or in the upper side, it horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with single burner, or with chandelier, or piping for several lights, or even the entire piping of the house. There are also single stationary and portable lamps with tanks connected. So compressible is this gas that a three months' supply for a large house can be stored in a cylinder six inches in diameter and four and a half feet long; and it can be delivered by wagon, or by railroad, express or freight, as the case requires. The price for this quantity of liquified gas is ten dollars—the tank and fixtures being five dollars, and barring accident, will last a lifetime. Fifteen cents' worth of the acetylene liquid will give as much light as a thousand cubic feet of common illuminating gas—the price of which varies from about one dollar to five dollars per thousand. The gas arises directly from the decomposition of water by carbide of calcium—a substance made by fusing coal dust and lime together in an electric furnace.

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te \$8.00. Prices so low that nearly even your county will be glad to have the MADE TO ORDER.

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Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent

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make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to si
mean busings (merely as a temporary deports), One Bollar and express each, with the understanding the One Bollar
be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly said
I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.

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Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Cannations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves for Dolly, 5½x6½.
2 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Design for Cheese folly, 3½x6.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Show Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Show Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Show Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Fruit Plate Dollies, 8½x3½.
1 Design for Tamble Dolly, 4x6.
1 Design for Tamble Dolly, 4x8.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x0.
1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.

9x9.

1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.

1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.

1 Design for Butter Plate Dollies, 35x334.

1 Cat Work Dolly Design, 5x5.

1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.

1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.

1 Floral Corner Geranium, 64x64.

1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

1 Design Cen
1 Pansy Doi
1y, 6b, 26b,
1 Alphabet
for Handkerchiefsor
Fine Linen,
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1 Border
for Fiannel
Work, 3b,
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designs for
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of every
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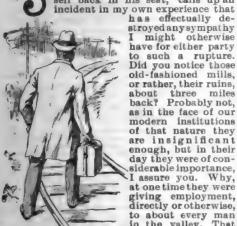
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THE STRIKERS' VICTIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT.

PEAKING of strikes," remarked my chance acquaintance, as he closed the window and settled himself back in his seat, "calls up an



such a rupture. Did you notice those old-fashioned mills, or rather, their ruins, about three miles back? Probably not, as in the face of our modern institutions of that nature they are insignificant enough, but in their day they were of considerable importance, I assure you. Why, at one time they were

day they were of considerable importance, I assure you. Why, at one time they were giving employment, directly or otherwise, to about every man in the valley. That was just before the about which I am going to tell.

"It was forty years ago—oh, yes, we had strikes then sometimes, though they were not under the organized management of the present day. Neither side was answerable for any act, except to the law, which you know in such cases is very apt to be disregarded. I don't remember what first started the controversy. It does not matter, anyway; it was started and all at once the mills were forced to shut down, and the teamsters and farmers suddenly found their source of supply cut off and were compelled to suffer equally with those who were in the strike, though probably the greater part of them never knew what the quarrel was about.

"Things began to look desperate in the course of a week or two for the families that depended on the milis for their living, and the managers decided to send away for what new men were necessary to take the places of those who still refused to work, hoping in this way to, at least, provide employment for their faithful hands. I was offered the position of foreman and promptly accepted it, as I was at that time young and of just the right disposition to rather enjoy the prospect of a contest with the strikers, coupled with no little personal risk.

"The evening of the day on which I received the offer found me at the station we have just passed, awaiting the arrival of the train up the branch from the mills. The train was long past due and in my eagerness to reach the scene of my future labors every minute I was forced to wait seemed fully equal to ten.

"Waiting to go up to the mills?" said a voice beside me. It's no use to-night. They dars'n't run the train. You see the men have word that a new foreman is to come up this evening and they have made a vow that he won't reach there unless he walks over. The engineers all know the men mean business and you may take my word for it,

my duties and an attempt to formulate some course of action appropriate for the morrow, (which I now felt convinced would bring an open contest), I walked rapidly up the track, and in the course of half an hour found myself at a lofty treetle less than a mile from the mill.

at a lofty treatle less than a mile from the mill. "Probably my attention was almost anywhere except where it ought to have been—on my own surroundings. At this point I was suddenly startled by an unnatural flash of light before my eyes, followed by absolute darkness. Half unconscious as I was I vaguely realized the exact cause of it all. I had been approached from behind and struck with a club or some such weapon. When I came to myself it was to face some half-dozen rough, hard faces and to find that I was bound and gagged.

hard faces and to find that I was bound and gagged.

"Fool!" hissed one of them in my ear. 'You thought the train would never come, but it is coming, and your own miserable carcass shall be made to hurl it from the trestle to its destruction. Hark! Do you hear it?'

"Yes, I could hear it thundering along far down the vailey but every moment getting dreadfully near, for at the same time I realized that my assailants had boundame hand and foot to one of the rails just at the end of the trestle.

"There was no hope and such a death!

"Were you ever forced to lie perfectly helpless and listen to the approach of certain
death? I reckon not, nor have I ever had the
enemy that I would like to have endure even
an instant of the torture I endured that night.
It seems to be natural to shun death. It is
sometimes difficult to become reconciled after
a desperate battle with disease has robbed us
of a part of our vitality, and left us less to live
for. But to the young, with most of the privileges of life untasted and all life's golden opportunities for action still open, it is even more
terrible to give up. Add then, to this, the inability to stand and face death the while his
instrument could be distinctly heard approaching and its progress traced with a completeness
quite foreign to the subtle advancement of disease, and there is added an actual horror that quite foreign to the subtle advancement of dis-ease, and there is added an actual horror 'that can never be appreciated until realized. Al-ready I could feel the earth tremble beneath the tread of the approaching monster. My time indeed was very short. The fiends who had placed me there had left the spot, satisfied that they had done their work well. Ah! truly I should never hold the foreman's place in the mills. My head was in such a position that I could not see ahead, but I was sure that I could mills. My head was in such a position that I could not see ahead, but I was sure that I could feel the glare of the headlight, and it added to my terror as it glided up. Would reason stay with me till the end or would the engine strike the body of a madman? And then, a soft hand touched my own and a young girl's face, the loveliest that I have ever seen before or since, bent over me while those white hands tore wildly at the fastenings that bound me. The

train came nearer, nearer, was upon us, almost, but the knots would not yield. 'My God! Too late!' She almost shrieked. 'My father. Forgive him, won't you, for my sake?' "One moment she stood there, I well knew imploring forgiveness for the man whose hands had helped secure me there, and the next, the train had come. Stupidly I watched it glide up, on, on, across the trestle and finally come to a standstill.

up, on, on, across the frestle and finally come to a standstill.

"Indistinctly I heard the trainmen running back to where I lay. Dimly I realized that they were cutting the ropes; that I was free. And the girl; the beautiful face: why did not she return? Suddenly there flashed upon me a certain degree of returning sense and I sprang to my feet. Alas! Full well I realized the whole truth then. The track was double and my captors by mistake had tied me on the wrong track. But the girl, in that step back during her last appeal for the father whose deed she abhored, had placed herself in the way of the locomotive and been knocked from the trestle. "True to the memory of that appeal I never have yet divulged the name of my captor of that night, though I thought at the time he would have preferred to have me do so.

"At the funeral of the single victim of his plot the element of lawlessness died away among the strikers and peace was restored. The same day I severed my connections with the place forever.

"Sometimes—to-day for instance—there is a

forever.
"Sometimes—to-day for instance—there is a longing to go to that grave but something always

longing to go to that grave but something always seems to stand before me and motion me back, and I have never gone.

"That, then, is why I have so little sympathy with either side in labor troubles when violence is resorted to. For in a moment I had learned to love that girl and to hate all that for the sake of the gain could cause so much of purity and truth and innocence to suffer."

Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NLY a short time ago the world was startled by a series of successful experiments which were held which de-monstrated the possi-bility of wireless telegraphy. The spot chosen for the experi-ments was on the shores of Long Island, and water was the me-dium used for carry-ing the current.

ing the current.

Two copper plates were submerged in the salt water, several miles apart, and were connected by an insulated copper wire sulated copper wire. The circuit also contained a battery and a telegraph key. The current from the bat-tery, then, when the key was closed, passed from the battery to the end of the wire, to the submerged copper

the submerged copper plate, and then back to the other copper plate and the battery through the water.

A current passing through the water does not go back in a straight line, but spreads out in radiating rays, as do the ripples of water when one throws a stone into a quiet pond. So the water between the two submerged copper plates is permeated in all directions by the electrical current. electrical current.

To illustrate this point more fully, take a straight bar magnet and lay it upon a table. Cover it with a sheet of paper and sprinkle upon this iron filings. Tap the paper gently and the filings will distribute themselves in the same manner that the current distributes itself through the water.

itself through the water.

On this principle it has been demonstrated that an impulse sent through a shore wire ten miles long can be felt ten miles from shore.

By means of a receiver dropped into the

By means of a receiver dropped into the water within the area covered by the radiation of the impulses, the message of the shore wire may be read. For very long distances, delicate instruments, such as are used for taking messages from ocean cables, would need to be used; for comparatively short distances a telephone receiver, with its resistance greatly reduced was found to fill all needs.

receiver, with its resistance greatly reduced was found to fill all needs.

To the telephone receiver, connected by insulated wires, were attached two copper plates which were hung in the water parallel to the shore wire and in the area of the radiating impulses. The opening and the closing of the telegraph key on shore could then be plainly heard

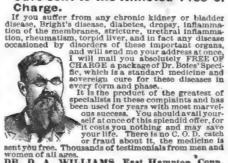
The inventors or discoverers were satisfied that their theories in regard to this matter were correct, and though the experiment did no more than convince them that they were in the right track, it was regarded as highly important and most significant.

MAINE DAY.

Feb. 15th was Maine day. One year ago that date our proud ship was blown up in Havana harbor. Since, we have had war, now it's peace. We have some war buttons, 10 kinds, gotten up for the times and cannot fail to please. We will send you two large and two small all different if you will send 13c. for mailing with our Giant Bargain Book. Better write to-day, money back if you wish Sunshine Button Dept., Augusta, Maine.

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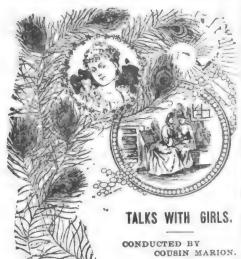
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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



Now comes the blowy month of March, cousins mine, and though it may be ugly and bad, don't give it a thought. Spring is just ahead, and there is sunshine and sweetness, and birdsongs, and rosebuds in that to make the whole world glad. It is a blessed thing to us all, dears, if we can always look out of the shadows into the sunlight beyond; there is always sunlight, if we will only look for it. However, there is something else to do besides talk, so let us see who comes first.

It is from an "Old Maid of Sixteen" who lives in Plattsburg, N. Y., and she wants to know if she should drop a crowd of girls who laugh at her because she refuses to "run after the boys" with them. Yes, yes; drop them quick.

May Rock, Darrow, La.—It is quite proper for a young girl to send valentines to the boys, if the boys are her brothers. Otherwise it is just as well not to.

Bessie E., St. James Parish, La.-Don't send your photograph to a young man or write to him. If you are past twenty you might if you are old friends.

friends.

Violet, Manitoba, Can.—All I can say of the kind of trousseau you should get is to have it handsome and within your means and station. If you go East to get married you win have to buy your ticket, even if you use part of it on your bridal tour. A bride wears kid gloves with a satin dress. Married ladies do not act as brides maids. Let the young man see what good clothes you have and tell him he won't have to buy any for you till he is able. The house where you board should furnish the linen. the linen.

able. The house where you board should furnish the linen.

Bertha K. of far away St. Mary's, Colorado, has my thanks for a very nice letter she writes me.

Nellie Gray, Blue Ridge, Ga.—If people truly love each other it does not make any difference what they look like, or what size they are or whatage. You are worrying about non-essentials. Thirty for the man and twenty for the woman are excellent marrying ages. Certainly I believe God intended certain people to marry. If He hadn't, they wouldn't have married. Yes I have kissed my sweetheart; or rather he has kissed me, but that was long, long ago.

Daisy, Newport, Ky.—It is hard to say where you could find a school where you could work for your education. The only way to find one is to get school advertisements from the magazines and write personal letters to the principals offering your services.

Questioner, Rochester, N. Y.—It is not necessary

Questioner, Rochester, N. Y.—It is not necessary to rap on the door of a public office before entering.

(2) There is no truth in fortune-tellers. (3) It is better for a girl of seventeen to wear her hair up. Lula, Van Buren, Ind.—Nothing will prevent perspiration of the face except cold or absolute quiet. There is no complexion powder that perspiration will not spoil. (2) Actresses use paints and stains of all kinds, and no one kind very long.

Bere and Tella De Sota In.—It is quite proper.

Bere and Tella, De Soto, Ia.—It is quite proper for a lady to accept a gentleman's attention, not-withstanding he has for a time been paying attention to another. (2) Let any man go who hasn't mind enough to know whether it is you or another he admires the more. What do you want with that kind of a man? kind of a man?

kind of a man?

Lena, Coffeyville, Ark.—It is proper to return all presents when you and the young man have broken with each other.

Butterfly, New Pine Creek, Ore.—It is not proper for a girl of fifteen to go sleighing with a young man, nor to take her friend's beau away from her, nor to go to dances or to kissing games, nor to be kissed good night. Neither should eleven year old kids read love stories.

Patter Chilhowie Va.—Vonesy you are eighteen

old kids read love stories.

Patty, Chilhowie, Va.—You say you are eighteen and engaged, but will not marry at present because you want to learn to be a trained nurse and work in hospitals. You are making a mistake there, my dear. You might go to a training school for nurses for a term, just to be handy, but that is enough. It is a hard life, even harder than marrying, so let it go except for a term, perhaps.

sweet Marie of Helena, Mon., says she has been reading my Talks for a long time, and yet she asks me how she shall win the love of a young man who doesn't care for her, when I hav? said a thousand times, I guess, that it cannot be done, unless she is rich and he is for sale, and then he is lying when he says it. Neither man's nor woman's love can be won. It goeth only where it listeth.

Sweet Sixteen, Auburn, Ind.—So called Love Powders, may be harmless to the body, but they are deadly poison to the mind. Let them alone. (2) The events in your life cannot be foretoid. (3) If, as you say, everybody in Auburn kisses everybody else good night, it must be proper. At least, in Auburn. It isn't so in this town. in Auburn. It isn't so in this town.

Prudence, Shawtown, Ohio.—The sentiment of your poetry is all right, but don't write any more poetry until you have read the best English and American poets.

Esther, Saratoga, N. Y.—Don't worry over the kisses you lost in the crowd that laughed at you. And stay away from the place where you lost them. There is such a thing as too much familiarity among friends.

Blue Eyes, Falmouth, Va.—Study your books and don't ask questions about the boys till you are out of your teens.

Blue and Gray, Des Moines, Ia.—You write like very sensible girls, indeed, and I do not see why you are not fairly run away with by the young men. I think it would be wiser if you made no especial effort to meet young men. You are young yet and the Lord will send the right ones to you in due time. If He does not, you will never be unhappy over it.

Cousin Grace Ladd of St. Louis, Mo., requests the cousins to send any Red Cross literature they may have, or any articles about Miss Clara Barton to Mrs. M. J. Metzger, Collinsyille, Ill.

Mamie, Quitman, Miss.—Schools of photography are few and far between and I do not know the address of one. Write to some of the photograph people who advertise and they may be able to teil you. I think photography is the best work for women and I do hope you will learn how and make a great success of it.

Annette C., Pittaburg, Tenn.—A husband cannot dispose of real estate on mortgage or sale without the wife's signature, which means her consent.

Lizzie C., Midland, Tenn.—I do not know the address of the electric oil painters you ask about.

Ask the owners of the samples you saw.

Cousin Allie Schofield of Ten Mile, Ark., would like to have suggestions from the cousins for the organization and conducting of a reading circle in her neighborhood.

Cupid, Napa, Cal.—You would not be happy if you married the young man you ask about. Wait three or four years. (2) It is quite proper for a gentleman to help a lady on with her jacket. (3) A caller should go home not later than half-past ten o'clock.

Lonely Girl, Bleda, Mo.—Do not marry the other man until you have asked the man you have loved since you were a little girl. Sometimes these older men don't quite understand that the children they knew have grown to maturity.

Howard, Bremond, Texas.—The sample you send is not quite poetry, but it has merit, if the ideas are all your own.

Frances, Saratoga, N. Y.—You should neither permit a young man whom you do not know to put on your states or to skate with you. Have you no acquaintances who could extend such courtesies? (2) The hair is brown.

Phoby G., Ascalon, Ga.—Since you are so sure that this rich gentleman of sixty would be perfectly willing to make you the mistress of his fine mansion if he knew you wanted to be, why not delicately ask him for the high honor? Nothing venture, nothing have, you know.

F. D. G., Meadow Station, Va.—Write to Charles Gillette, 15th and H. Streets, Washington, D. C., for the information you seek.

Anxiety, Pleasanton, Ks.—There is no way open to you except to wait five years and trust in Providence.

Cousin Emily of St. Paul, Minn., informs Cousins Gladys and Muriel that the National flower of Ger-many is the Bachelor Button, Die Kornblume. She asks what is the national flower of Austria. Who

can tell?

Inquisitive, Ankeney, Ia.—A young lady should not accept a ring from a man unless engaged to him. (2) A lady has no right to be impolite to a man simply because she doesn't like him, so long as he is polite. (3) Yes. (4) A young woman may become a successful doctor of medicine and I should advise her to become one if she can. (5) Yes. (6) Under some circumstances. (7 and 8) No.

Flower, Mt. Vernon, Mo.—Seventeen year old girls can get along very nicely without beaux. (2) Give your mother a chance. (3) You might accept the escort of boy friends if your brothers will not take their place.

Reader, Covington, Va .- It isn't necessary for the Reader, Covington, Va.—It isn't necessary for the man to say anything when he offers his arm to a lady. (2) She might accept slight assistance in going up or down steps, if she is old and feeble. (3) There is no "best work" on etiquette. Observation and practice do the work. Any book on etiquette will give all the points needed.

Inquirer, Falls Mills, Va.—There is nothing new in inscriptions for engagement rings. The old ones cannot be improved on.

Violet, aged fifteen, of South Manchester, Conn., asks me so many questions that all I can say is she must get her knowledge of them by growing older, which she cannot help doing for they are questions any girl of sixteen ought to know.

There, my dears, all of you are answered and it has taken so much space that I can only say by-by till next month, and the Lord keep you.

Cousin Marion.

Women's Clubs.



LUBS for women are not of so recent date as might be imagined.
As far back in the history of this country as 1685 the clergy of New England advised their female parishioners to meet together to study scriptural topics, and accordingly there were many weekly meetings of the good sisters for this purpose, which were, no doubt, edify-ing to the participants. In the eighteenth century there were quilt-ing parties at which one of the ladies read

one of the ladies read aloud while the others worked. Theological writings were given the first place, but poetry and fiction were occasionally allowed. Then the town-meeting gave an opportunity to the woman property-holder to both speak and vote. Prayer-meetings and experience-meetings, conference-meetings and class-meetings also gave women many a chance to speak their minds openly. Then came, in the present century, "literary evenings;" and at last, after the close of the civil war, came the urgent need of women's clubs, pure and simple. The Sorosis of New York, the Woman's Club in Boston and Brook-lyn were started as experiments, but their success was so great that now women's clubs are cess was so great that now women's clubs are everywhere, their name is legion, and their in-fluence for good is felt in every corner of our



LLK spun by shell fish! this sounds incredible, but it is a fact that the "pinna" in the Mediterranean has the power of spinning a viscid silk which is made into handsome fabric in Sicily. The material is synthesis of the state of the stat

is made into handsome fabric in Sicily. The material is gathered from the rocks at low tide, washed in soap and water, dried, straightened and carded,—one pound of the coarse filament yielding three ounces of fine thread, which, when spun, is of a burnished, golden brown color.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Me.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



URING the cold weather candy can be more easily made and kept, than when it is warm, and nowadays many people prefer to make their own candy, particularly when there are children to eat it, as then it is known children to eat it, as then it is known

to be absolutely wholesome.

There is a "knack" at candy making, which comes only with experience. One may give an absolutely correct and minute resume of everything she does and every ingredient she uses in making delicious candy, and someone else may follow directions exactly, and yet the result will be anything but satisfactory. There is much that cannot be told—that must be learned from experience.

much that cannot be told—that must be learned from experience.

The length of time for cooking depends largely on the kind of fire and the temperature, as evaporation takes place fast or slow, according to the atmosphere; therefore, it is next to impossible to tell any one just how long to boil the mixture, and yet everything depends upon just that one thing—the boiling.

In previous numbers we have given recipes for Candied Orange Peel, Fudge, Maple Cream with Nuts, and other delicious confections. No v comes Maple Sugar with Walnuts, which fairly melts in the mouth. To make this, boil, without stirring, one pound maple sugar, grated, with one-half cup boiling water, until a little, taken up and cooled, can be made into a soft ball, between the thumb and finger. Take from the fire and stir until thick enough to drop from a spoon in round shape. Press a walnut meat into each round before it hardens.

VELVET MOLASSES CANDY.

Put into a kettle one cup molasses, three cups sugar, one cup boiling water and three table-spoons vinegar. As soon as the boiling point is reached add one-half teaspoon cream of tartar. Boil until, when tried in cold water, the mixture is brittle. Stir constantly, when



VANILLA WAFERS.

in this stage, and when about done add one-half cup melted butter and one-fourth teaspoon soda. Pour into buttered pan to cool, and then pull. Just before pulling, add one-half tea-spoon lemon extract, or one teaspoon vanilla, or, if the flavor is liked, a few drops of oil of

So many people really like peppermint that a reliable recipe for making peppermint drops may be of use to some one.

PEPPERMINTS.

PEPPERMINTS.

Put one and one-half cups sugar, and one-half cup boiling water into a saucepan and stir until sugar dissolves. Boil ten minutes; remove from fire, add six drops oil of peppermint and beat until of right consistency to drop from the tip of a spoon onto buttered paper in smull round particles.

Vanilla wafers are pastry, but are so delicate as to seem more like candy. They may be made into delicate rolls, as shown in our illustration, or cut into small fancy shapes with the little cutters now so much in use. Those in the shape of a star are attractive, also the heart, diamond, club and spade shapes, which are only an inch and a half wide.

Cream one-third cup butter and lard in equal proportions; add one cup of sugar, one well-beaten egg, one-fourth cup of milk and two teaspoons vanilla. Mix and sift two and one-half cups flow, two teaspoons baking powder.

beaten egg, one-fourth cup of milk and two teaspoons vanilla. Mix and sift two and one-half cups flour, two teaspoons baking powder and one-half teaspoon salt. Add to first mixture, chill thoroughly and then take one-fourth the mixture at a time onto the board. Roll very thin and cut with fancy cutters. Bake on a sheet in a moderate oven. The round red Edom cheese makes a very good

serving dish, af-ter the cheese has all been taken out. From this may be served macaroni or spag hetti, mixed with grated cheese and to mato sauce-or cooked fresh fish, warmed up in white sauce. The shell may be used several times, as it is very hard, and can easily be



can easily De CHEESE SHELL. lukewarm water, after serving, care being used regarding the color on the outside, however, as it sometimes runs down onto napkins or serv-

ing doileys.

Speaking of cheese reminds me of some dainty cheese sandwiches served at a luncheon, a short time since, and which were served hot. They were made by cutting a slice of bread of

medium thickness into oblong shape—and with a sharp knife removing a square out of the center, leaving a shallow box. Fit into the box a thin slice of American cheese, season with salt and paprica, fit the cover on to the box, brush over with the white of egg and brown in hot fat. Drain on paper and serve at once. If preferred, the sandwiches may be prepared as above and toasted, instead of fried.

A Curious Error That Led Columbus to Undertake His Voyage of Discovery.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



T an early period the subject of the earth's size had stirred the minds of thinking men. Variousancient investigators had by different methods reached measurements more or less near the truth; these methods were continued into were continued into the middle ages, sup-plemented by new thought, and among the more striking re-sults were those ob-tained by Roger Bacon and Gerbert, afterward Pope Sylvester II. They handed down to after-time the torch of knowledge, but, as their reward among

their reward among their contemporaries, they fell under the charge of sorcery.

Far more consonant with the theological spirit of the middle ages was a solution of the problem from Scripture, and this solution deserves to be given as an example of a very curious theological error, chancing to result in great good. The second book of Esdras, which among Protestants is placed in the Apocrypha, was held by many of the foremost men of the ancient Church as fully inspired; though Jerome looked with suspicion on this book, it was regarded as prophetic by Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, and Ambrose, and the Church acquiesced in that view. In the Eastern Church it held an especially high place, and in the Western Church, before the Reformation, was generally considered by the most mation, was generally considered by the most eminent authorities to be part of the sacred canon. In the sixth chapter of this book there

canon. In the sixth chapter of this book there is a summary of the works of creation, and in this occur the following verses:

"Upon the third day thou dids't command that the waters should be gathered up in the seventh part of the earth: six parts hast thou dried up and kept them, to the intent that of these some being planted of God and tilled, might serve thee."

"Upon the fifth day thou saidst unto the seventh part where the waters were gathered that

these some being planted of God and tilled, might serve thee."

"Upon the fifth day thou saidst unto the seventh part where the waters were gathered, that it should bring forth living creatures, fowls and fishes: and so it came to pass."

These statements were reiterated in other verses, and were naturally considered as of controlling authority.

Among the scholars who pondered on this as on all other things likely to increase knowledge was Cardinal Pierre d'Ailly. This great man, while he denied the existence of the antipodes as St. Augustine had done, believed firmly in the sphericity of the earth, and, interpreting these statements of the book of Esdras in connection with this belief, he held that, as only one-seventh of the earth's surface was covered by water, the ocean between the west coast of Europe and the east coast of Asia could not be very wide. Knowing, as he thought, the extent of the land upon the globe, he felt that in view of this divinely authorized statement the globe must be much smaller, and the land of "Zipango," reached by Marco Polo, on the extreme coast of Asia, much nearer than had been generally believed.

On this point he laid stress in his great work, the Ymazo Mundi, and an edition of it having been published in the days when Columbus was thinking most closely upon the problem of a westward voyage, it naturally exercised much influence upon his reasonings. Among the treasures of the library at Seville, there is nothing more interesting than a copy of this work annotated by Columbus himself; from this very copy it was that Columbus obtained confirmation of his belief that the passage across the ocean to Marco Polo's land of Zipango in Asia was short. But for this error, based upon a text supposed to be inspired, it is unlikely that Columbus would have had the courage to undertake his voyage. It is a curious fact that this single theological error thus promoted a series of voyages which completely destroyed not only this but every other conception of geography based upon the sacred w

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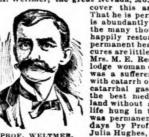
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What hind of a person should I marry?

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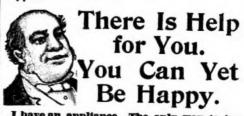
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SOMNAMBULISM.

WRITTEN FOR COMPORT.



T is very difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction in narratives of what persons have done in their sleep. A propensity to get up and walk about while asleep is not at all an uncommon thing es-

asleep is not at all an uncommon thing, especially with young persons, who common thing, especially with young persons, who commonly grow out of the predisposition for nocturnal activity. But many of the more serious cases of adult somnambulism have undoubtedly been of so striking an character, and had effects so startling and dramatic, while poets and playwrights, novelists and painters, have so mingled fiction with fact, that nobody can be quite sure how much of such accounts is true. If any reliance whatever may be placed on the narratives of those whose testimony certainly ought to be trust-worthy, the most remarkable flights of fiction can scarcely have gone far beyond the range of simple fact. Macnish relates an instance of a somnambulist who left his house at twelve o'clock at night, walked through a difficult and dangerous road, and swam a mile and a half. He was discovered at two o'clock in the morning by Custom House officers who sent off a crew to pick him up, which they did, though he was then fast asleep, and could afterwards hardly be persuaded that he was not in bed. This seems a very extravagant story; but there is some reason for regarding it as by no means beyond the bounds of credibility. The records of the Old Bailey afford testimony to the fact that a brother of Lord Culpepper was acquitted of the murder of one of the Guards whom as well as his horse, he had done it when fast asleep. Stories of people who have composed songs and poetry or written essays during sleep are innumerable. A well authenticated case of mental exertion on the part of a somnambulist is that of Dr. Haycock, an Oxford professor of medicine, who was sometimes known to rise in his sleep and preach a vigorous and impressive sermon, which all the efforts of his friends could not prevent running its full length. A very singular instance of brain work during sleep was recorded in 1844. An inhabitant of the island of Syra, described as about elighteen years of age, tall and robust, soon after commencing a course of study, was

Macbeth, "her eyes are open."

"Ay," replies the waiting gentleman, "but their sense is shut." How far this is in accordance with fact is a moot point, and so is the question as to the possibility of sight by the somnambulist whose eyes are closed. Gall affirms that all experience goes to show that somnambulists who have their eyes shut hit themselves when objects unknown to them are placed in their way. But, on the other hand, Dr. Wienholt, a German physician of eminence and ability, mentions some very striking cases Dr. Wienholt, a German physician of eminence and ability, mentions some very striking cases proving the contrary. He speaks of a rope-maker who, in a deep sleep and with his eyes fast closed, traveled repeatedly from Naremburg to Weimar, avoiding horses and carriages that came in his way, and on one occasion picking his way carefully over some logs of timber which had fallen across the road. On another occasion he rode on horseback through a river. occasion he rode on horseback through a river, allowing his horse to drink, and drawing up his feet so as to avoid wetting them. A great many facts, or alleged facts, have been recorded tending to show the possession of some intuitive perception in a great many sleepwalkers apart from the sense of eyesight.

We have not space here to discuss any of the We have not space here to discuss any of the theories that have been set up to explain this mysterious faculty, if, indeed, it really is ever known to exist, and, moreover, the mere fact of bodily activity while the senses are locked in sleep is in itself sufficiently mysterious for full consideration. At first sight it would seem quite incredible that a person should rise and—as in the case we alluded to at the outset—while fast asleep should plunge into the sea and swim for a mile and a half. But it is not more incredible than certain other facts of a kindred nature which are altogether beyond kindred nature which are altogether beyond

dispute.

"I remember," said Dr. Richardson, when taking the chair at a lecture at South Kensington, London, "Dr. Snow administering this curious substance—a kind of poison which under certain circumstances, may be generated in the body from the starchy parts of it—to a boy who was being operated upon by Sir William Ferguson. While Sir William Ferguson was amputating the foot—that was the operation—the boy was playing unconcernedly with a ball which he was throwing up and catching with the utmost precision." Dr. Richardson was discussing the relations between certain poisons and certain diseases. "Take somnambulism as an instance," he observed. "I have not the slightest doubt that somnambulism is prothe slightest doubt that somnambulism is pro-

duced by the formation in the body of a peculiar substance which may be derived from the starchy parts of the body, and has the effect of the chemical substance known as amylene. I believe that because I can produce artificial somnambulism by the use of that substance.

believe that because I can produce artificial somnambulism by the use of that substance. Under its influence persons can be made to walk about unconsciously in the same way the somnambulist does. Afterwards, when the effect has gone off, the person becomes all right again; that is to say, when the effect of the poison—for to that extent it is a poison—passes away."

Then he goes on to speak of the boy who played with a ball while his foot was being amputated. If it is possible that the administration of a drug shall exert so strange an influence as that a boy, while sufficiently in possession of his senses to play with a ball, is yet so fast asleep as to be unaware that his foot is being taken off, it clearly becomes quite credible that he may take a swim in the water while too fast asleep to be awakened by the shock of the first plunge; and if it be assumed, as Dr. Richardson asserts it may be, this peculiar substance may be naturally generated in the body, then many of the phenomena of somnambulism not only become in a certain sense intelligible, but the problem of remedy would seem to be very much simplified. If, instead of some peculiarity of brain or nervous system generally, the care of somnambulism is merely the discovery of some simple antidote to a poison, the task is one which we may any day expect to be most effectually accomplished.



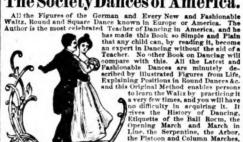
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THE figure erected for the Lunation, or new moon, which occurs at about 12 minutes past I o'clock in the morning of April 10th, 1899, the great benefic Jupiter will be found almost exactly upon on the South meridian. Capricorn will be rising and Saturn, the ruler of the Ascendant. the conjoined luminaries which are in the third house with Mercury. Mars is not favorably located, for he is in the 7th house receiving the square application of both the luminaries and Mercury. Venus is in the second house in benevolent aspect with Jupiter.

The figure promises well for the prosperity and general welfare of the country. The benevolent Jupiter, disposer of the ruler of the scheme, and of Venus, the lesser benefic, stands most elevated in the figure and will over-rule whatever opposing conditions threaten in the shape of disorder and enmittes. Mars threatens dissensions and enmittes if not actual bloodshed in the western and southwestern regions of our dominions, notably in connection with the government forces across the waters westward. It is apprehended some detriment may be suffered to the mail or telegraph service in the west. Cable cutting or seizure of mails or dispatches by disorderly elements is to be guarded against. Eruptive diseases and fevers in the western apen our western waters, by which lives are lost, is probable during the last half of the month. Some unusual excitement in financial circles is indicated in the last days of April and persons much interested in speculative ventures, especially in the stock market of the country, should be watchfully alert or they will lose heavily by exciting fluctuations. Venus promises well for our National treasury from trade in agricultural products and indicates remunerative gains to the people from their crops as well as a good degree of fertility and be untiful yield from the soil.

The administration, despite political dissensions growing out of disputes over the policy of the Government will be a serious sufferer under this lunation and

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1899.

APRIL 1-Saturday. A vein of evil is mixed with what would otherwise be very benevolent conditions on this day and somewhat embarrasses or frustrates the undertakings of the time; make no bargains for houses or lands; defer consultations with architects and builders and also all dealings of importance with persons in the dirty and laborious avocations, particularly during the latter half of the day.

2-Sunday. One of the best Sabbaths of the month; efforts of the clergy will be especially happy and effective, and minds dwell with earnestness and zeal on the contempiation of religious subjects; the day gives special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art, and renders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

3-Monday. Choose not this day for beginning any

ders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

3-Monday. Choose not this day for beginning any important undertaking for no matter how favorable the promises they will prove delusive and result disastrously to them unless their nativity is remarkably good at this time; have no dealings in real estate, nor with landlords, contractors or farmers; the afternoon and evening are less evit than the morning hours. The day is unfortunate as a birthday anniversary and the time generally is decidedly adverse for persons born about the 13th of March, June, September, or December, of past years, as they are likely to be having very disappointing and baffing experiences in their affairs. Many of the male sex so born have business ruptures or serious disagreements, which threaten the success of Ineir enterprises and render them despondent and quite unhappy. Ladies so born suffer more through the misfortunes of male relatives and friends and should be very discreet and careful in all their affairs; but especially so of their social engagements.

engagements.

4 - Tuesday. Avoid rashness of word and act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations especially if performed upon the head, stomach, or kidneys; the middle hours of the day are the best; more care than usual is urged in any of the speculative ventures, as they are likely to bring losses rather than gains, unless the nativity is remarkably good just at this time; don't sign any important agreement nor should travel be undertaken in the early hours of this day.

S—Wednesday. Begin the day early and urge all untertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and
press all general business to the utmost. Give preferences, if any, to the noon and afternoon hours for effecting major engagements with persons in the literary and
intellectual callings when also urge all correspondence
and literary matters; sign writings of all kinds except
such as pertain to manufacturing interests, surgical or
chemical work, or matters of construction; commercial
transactions are well favored and dealings with banks
and persons of wealth are assisted here. Attend also to
writings affecting houses and lands and to printing and
publishing.

8—Thursday. Begin this day with the sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are particularly favored; authors will find the hours about noon of this day much more auspicious than usual for commencing any new and important work; make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement.

7—Friday. The forenoon is the least favorable part of the day, and caution is suggested for avoidance of disputes through the morning hours; preference should be given to the noon and early afternoon hours for dealings with persons in the elegant avocations of life, musicians, artists, and dealers in fancy and artistic wares; the late hours of the day are depressing and more likely to give disappointments, either then or to the matters then began.

S—Saturday. After the very early hours this day will be full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutiers and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

8 Nunday. This day is quite favorable for church matters and conduces in an unusual degree to religious fervor and moral advancement, and church contributions are likely to be very liberal.

10 - Monday. Enterupon the active pursuit of business with the first moments of the day and waste no time in pleasure or folly; specially fortunate for the literary and scientific pursuits, the polite arts, important correspondence, employment of help, the execution of writings pertaining to houses and lands and concerning printing; unless care is had, the afternoon will bring annoyances through haste of judgment or disputes.

11 - Tuesday. Hold on to the pennies; do not speculate, nor expect any favor from banks or other money institutions, especially in the forenon; the afternoon favors the elegant and artistic pursuits and promises

more than ordinary pleasure from the musical or dra-matic entertainments.

matic entertainments.

12—Wednesday. Choose not the forenoon of this day for beginning any important undertaking; have no dealings in real estate, nor with landlords, contractors or farmers; the afternoon and evening invite activity in the mechanical callings and promote success from dealings in metals, machinery and cutlery, or with chemists, engineers, surveyors, tanners, bakers, carpenters and founders.

13—Thursday. Avoid this day for dealings with pub-lic officers or superintendents of great public works, also railway officials and large corporations; do not expect much pleasure from dramatic or musical entertainments in the evening.

in the evening.

14—Friday. Baffling circumstances attend the prosecution of business relating to fancy and crnamental goods, musical merchandise and also the pursuit of the fine arts; beware of making any matrimonial engagement in this forenoon; the forenoon hours are recommended for the literary pursuits and for dealings of minor character with persons engaged in cierical capacities, also teachers, students, surveyors, and civil engineers; when also mercantile business is to be urged to the utmost and the earlier in the afternoon the better for the success.

13—Naturday. The early and late nours are the best

13- Maiturday. The early and late nours are the best ones of the day; seek favor from thine employer and from persons in high stations in life; the latter half of the day is recommended for purchase of goods and for dealings with banks or persons of wealth and station.

16-Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day, in which it will be well to bridle the tongue and avoid contention; rest and quiet are best sought.

17-Monday. Seek no advantage from thine em-ployer nor ask favors from public officials or persons in authority in great corporations; the evening is conducive to rashness, peevishness and excitability and a bridle should be placed upon the impulses; have care also in handling inflammables or explorives and see that no chances are taken of harm or loss from fire or violent accident.

accident.

18—Tracsday. Great circumspection is advised in thine undertakings of this day; look sharp if engaged in speculation, as some bad losses are threatened. In fact, the last half of April is likely to witness some unusual fluctuations in the money or stock market and some bad failures occur and fraud and defalcations of magnitude come to light. Don't purchase goods for trade on this day and hold on to the purce strings for avoidance of unnecessary or extravagant purchases.

19—Wednesday. Begin this day with the sun and urge all manner of business to the utmost. It is the merchant's own day and specially fortunate for all honorable pursuits; buy goods for trade, specialte in legitimate methods of business, travel, sign writings, urge literary and scientific pursuits and apply for favor or money accommodations during the forenoon; execute deeds, mortgages, leases, wills, and all species of contracts concerning building, particularly if thy nativity also favor such acts.

29—Thursday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday

such acts.

20—Thursday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor, giving preference, if any, to such matters as depend upon mental labor; the time is particularly favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; the mind is unusually active; urge correspondence, make contracts, especially those effecting legal and educational matters; hire help and push all matters of trade and business; effect important deals with banks and the wealthy.

21—Friday. Give preference to the middle hours of the day for the pursuit of all general business; the morning encourages transactions of minor character pertaining to the elegant and artistic pursuits, though it is not wise to begin great things of this nature at this time; the evening hours promote combustibility and all are cautioned to be guarded as to fires.

22—Saturday. Dramatists, musicians, artists, jew-

tioned to be guarded as to fires.

22—Saturday. Dramatists, musicians, artists, jewelers, upholsterers, and furniture dealers are just at this time "under the ban," experience losses or embarrassments and will need to exercise unusual caution in all their acts; it will be well for theatrical managers and artists if they defer for a short time entering into important professional engagements; let the fair sex shun matrimony for a season, but particularly during these last two days of the week, if their desire be for domestic peace or harmony in the marriage relation.

peace or harmony in the marriage relation.

23—Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgencies in the imaginative and marvellous in literature. The time is full of excitement and anxiety to persons born about 23rd of January, April, July or October, of past years, and many of such persons are having annoying physical experiences, feverish complaints, or are in the midst of strife or contention in their business affairs; and not a few of them have met unusual losses from speculative ventures; all such persons will be wise to be guarded against loss from fires, explosions and accidents.

24—Monday. The week begins with an excellent

sons will be wise to be guarded against loss from fires, explosions and accidents.

24—Monday. The week begins with an excellent day for the vigorous prosecution of general business. It is particularly recommended for transactions pertaining to houses and lands, mines, building, and dealings in wood, coal, lumber, petroleum, lead and all kinds of plumbing materials; use the forenoon for engagements with banks and attention to pecuniary matters.

25—Thesday. Look to thy purse on this day; loan no money and gauge thine expenditures by thine actual needs. Recolus cannot advise the beginning of any new and important enterprise, no matter how flattering the promise, for conditions are very unfavorable, indicating embarrassment and poor success if not ultimate loss. Such conditions likewise advise extreme caution in finances, discourage large purchases of merchandise for trade and are bad for the giving of business credits or loans of money; bad failures and heavy commercial losses are induced under the prevailing influences; see that special precautions are observed against fire for we are in the midst of conditions which threaten peculiar fury of the fire element, causing excessive property losses and sacrifice of human life. These features of events are particularly noticeable in the lives of persons born about the last days in January, April, July and October, of past years, and such persons are cautioned that the pasting time calls for unusual care in the respects indicated, for best avoidance of mischief to their nativities. They should likewise be cautious about exposing themselves to harm from bad eruptive and inflammatory diseases.

26—Wednesday. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the hetter part of this day nor the restraint during the hetter part of this day nor the restraint might in the calls for the part of the part of the part of the decision that the part of the part

diseases.

26—Wednesday. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the better part of this day, nor be rash in decision in business matters; quarrels and contentions are easy of birth and more violence abounds at this time; have no dealings with persons in business concerned with fancy or artistic goods or with chemical or electrical materials

27—Thursday. An excellent day for transactions with persons in the artislic pursuits, dealers in wearing apparel, clothing manufacturers, weavers, musicians, dramatists, dressmakers, tailors, embroiderers and workers in wax and artistic materials; don't be too hasty in decisions in trade nor in speculative transactions.

28. Friday. Improve every minute of the first two-thirds of this day, pushing all commercial transactions, entering into contracts pertaining to books and literary matters and dealing with printers, publishers, lawyers, and all ingenious persons.

29 Saturday. The morning and evening hours are the least auspicious of the day; don't have dealings with real estate men, furniture dealers, jewelers, decorators nor persons in the artistic pursuits.

30 Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sab-bath day, inviting rest and quiet rather than physical exertion or mental effort.

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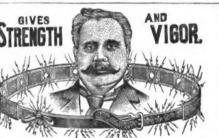
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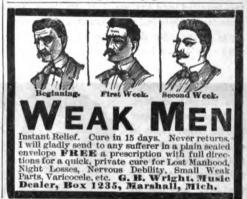
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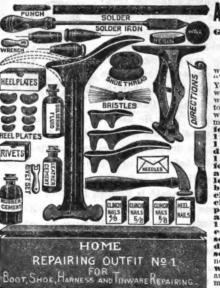
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



No diplomatic position in the gift of our great Republic is more coveted than the post of Ambassador to England. There is a social as well as diplomatic distinction in being accredited to the

Court of St. James. We require more than mere statesmanship, more than mere wealth. more than mere literary culture in the man who stands between the two great English speaking branches of the Anglo Saxon race. On January the twelfth this great honor was conferred for the second time in the administration of President McKinley. Joseph Hodges Choate of New York was named by the Senate to succeed Colonel Hay as Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain. Mr. Choate is one of the best known lawyers in the United States. He comes of staunch old Puritan stock, his ancestor John Choate having come to New England in 1640. Mr. Choate was born in the old witch-haunted town of Salem, Mass., in 1832. He was born on the twenty-fourth of January so this last great honor comes almost as a birthday gift. Joseph Choate is a son of Harvard, being graduated from that University at the age of twenty. Three years after his graduation he was admitted to the bar. In 1856 he located in New York, and three years later became a law partner in the well-known firm of Evarts, Choate and Beaman. As a lawyer he has become famous for the versatility of his knowledge. He has great ability as a public speaker and a national reputation as a wit. His kindly genial face is well known in the great metropolis. He has the qualities of good fellowship and of delicate tact required in an Ambassador to England. The American people feel no doubt that his popularity on the other side of the water will rank with that of his famous predecessors.

Mrs. Frances Hodgdon Burnett or Mrs. Hodgdon as she now has the legal right to call herself is undoubtedly the most successful woman writer of the day. Any one of the phenomenal successes she has won would place her in the



first rank. To be the author of Little Lord Fauntleroy is fame enough for one person, but it is only one success among many won by this versatile and talented woman. Frances Hodgdon was born in the great manufacturing city of Manchester, England, and it was here that she became familiar with the odd Lancashire dialect that she used in some of her earlier tories, notably in That Lass O'Lowries. Her father died when she was about four years old but the family were in easy circumstances and until Frances Hodgdon was fourteen years of age she lived the average life of the average well-to-do English girl. Reverses, however, came; little by little the family fortune was reduced until finally no alternative was left except to seek a new home in America where Mrs. Hodgdon's brother believed an opening could be found for the boys. The family came to Newmarket, Tennessee, but the family fortune continued to ebb. At last it was not a question of giving up luxuries but a question of the actual lack of necessities. In this strait, Frances determined to aid the family finances and opened a private day school in one room of the log house that was "home" to the family. Money was scarce and the young schoolmistress was obliged to take her tuition fees in carrots, potatoes, etc. The next move was to Knoxville into a tiny house which the merryhearted family dubbed "Noah's Ark." There were three girls and they faced the real privations of life with a light-hearted girlish glee that robbed poverty of half its sting. The three had each to contribute to the wardrobe of the fortunate one who had any merry-making on hand and the various articles were in a picture of the most exquisite dandyism while this way common property. By no chance his Baron Chevrial showed the wicked old could two of the girls be in gala attire at the roue. His latest success, Cyrano de Bergerac,

marked for her magnificent gowns had a oneperson" as she calls herself in her story of her and write she did after selling wild grapes to pay for postage and paper. The rest reads like a fairy tale, for the stories brought fame and wealth. Instead of Noah's Ark, Mrs. Hodgdon to-day has one home in London and another in Washington; both of them filled with rare furniture, objects of art, bric-a-brac and all tion. the luxurious, artistic litter of modern taste. Peterson's Magazine published her first story. Her success was instantaneous and continued. She made a brief visit to England and upon her return married Dr. Burnett, an oculist of Washington, D. C. This relation has been recently severed by mutual agreement and Mrs. Burnett resumes her maiden name. Two sons were born, Lionel and Vivian. The deepest sorrow of Mrs. Hodgdon's life was the death of her eldest son in Paris in 1885. The cross that marks his grave bears the words, "Lionel, Whom the gods loved." Vivian graduated in June at Harvard, where he made a place for himself by his talent and genial ways. One of the events in the dramatic world was the great success of the play "A Lady of Quality" which was dramatized from Mrs. Hodgdon's novel. Her latest book "The Duke of Osmonde" gives the man's point of view of the same story. Mrs. Hodgdon's workshop at the top of her Washington home is the most interesting part of that beautiful house. It is thoroughly comfortable with its broad couches, pictures, photographs and books. The revolving bookcase that stands by her desk is filled at present with histories, and special books treating of the period in which the action of her last two novels occurs. Mrs. Hodgdon does not make hard work of her writing. She has the story all developed before she does any writing. Then her first copy is sent to the publishers. She is thoroughly progressive and seems to have the talent of discerning the public taste and of supplying its demands. No dialect story was more popular than That Lass O'Lowries, no child's story ever made a greater sensation than Little Lord Fauntleroy, and no daring advocate of the right of the "unquiet sex" ever created a more dashing figure than Clorinda in "A Lady of Quality."

One of the most picturesque features of Washington life is the presence on the streets of members of the foreign legations in the brilliant dress of their nation. Of course the Oriental nations add most color to the scene and chief among the observed is the new minister from Siam, Phya Visddha Suriyasakti. Phya means "baron," or a member of the lesser nobility of Siam. The new Siamese minister is finely educated, with a keenly inquiring turn of mind. He is much interested in schools and particularly in manual training. He has visited Hampton and the Indian school in Carlyle. The early part of the winter he spent in travel about this country, returning to Washington in time for the opening of Congress in December. After a brief taste of the social life of Washington he will pay a visit to London.

Richard Mansfield occupies a unique position on the American stage. His great genius is now univer sally acknowledged. He is an artist who is content with nothing less than the most finished interpreta-



tion of his art. He has long been noted for a savage indifference to the applause of the public or the decisions of dramatic critics. His speeches before the curtain are often devoted to scolding his audiences or criticising the press. Mansfield is English by birth but has become thoroughly identified with the American stage. He has the indifference to gain of the true artist. His great success, "Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde," would have filled the theater for an indefinite time but Mansfield utterly refuses to become identified with any one part. He is an actor of great versatility but of marked mannerisms. His Beau Brummel gave same time and the woman who to-day is re- has revolutionized opinion as to the manner from the original objects. She is an acknowl-

and method of a successful play. That a ro- edged authority on the ancient picture writings third interest in the one presentable outfit of mantic poem, a love story in blank verse could of Mexico. She has discovered a very valuable the girls from Noah's Ark. But the "little crowd the theaters from one end of the country to the other proved a surprise to many life was not disheartened. She would write, knowing ones. Mansfield took a play that zional Centrale at Florence, Italy. She has most dramatic critics would declare entirely published it in fac-simile with a translation, unsuited to the times, and made the greatest artistic and financial success of it. Richard Mansfield has been called the Irving of America, and his great effort to make the drama an elevating art certainly deserves that recogni-



Sven Hedin, the young Swedish explorer, is as well known in Europe as his countryman Dr. Nansen. America is just becoming interested in Hedin's valuable contributions to scientific and geographical knowledge. The young Swede is but thirty-three

years of age, but he has made three long and eventful journeys through Central Asia and endured enough hardships to fill an ordinary lifetime. He proposed to be an Arctic explorer. Before he was seventeen, he had filled book after book with the most carefully drawn and beautifully executed maps. He left his studies at Upsala to tutor for a year. During this year he spent much time in studying the dialect of Turkey and the Persian language. He received \$160 for his year's work and with this sum he made a journey through Persia. His observations were recorded in a book entitled, "Through Persia, Mesopotamia and the Caucasus." In 1892, he finished his studies at the University, taking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The same year he was appointed as a member of an embassy sent from Sweden to the Shah of Persia. Dr. Hedin's knowledge of Persian made his services of especial value. On the conclusion of this duty, he prepared for his great expedition across Central Asia from west to east, to study the glaciers, to explore the Thibetan plateau and to settle a dispute concerning the location of a lake. The money for the expedition was subscribed by the King of Sweden, a Russian and many prominent Swedes. The expedition occupied three years and seven months. The time was filled with exciting adventures, almost super-human traits of endurance and frightful hardships. At one time the intrepid explorer staggered alone across a desert, scorching by day, freezing by night, ten days without food and nine days without water. A third expedition was undertaken with the object of searching for old buried towns in the desert. He found many relics of these lost villages and many old manuscripts that had been buried in the shifting desert sand for unknown years. He satisfied himself that those buried towns had once been inhabited by Buddhists, although that faith has long since died. At no distant date the world will hear more of the work of Dr. Sven Hedin in the cradle of the world's history.

Mrs. Zelia Nuttall is a recognized authority on the language, antiquities and picture writings of ancient Mexico. She is honorary special assistant in the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology. She was born in San Francisco and is of Irish-Spanish-American descent. She says her blood is half American but her heart is wholly so. She studied in Paris, Germany, London and Italy. She has traveled much and is an expert linguist. At the American Congress at Huelva, Spain, much attention was attracted by Mrs. Nuttall's tables with her reconstruction of the ancient calendar system of Mexico. These were afterwards shown at an historical exhibition at Madrid and at the World's Fair in Chicago. Here, Mrs. Nuttall by reason of her special and exhaustive knowledge of the subject was judge of the Mexican and Central American archæology in the department of anthropology. In 1896, the University of Pennsylvania sent Mrs. Nuttall to Russia to collect archæological and ethnological material for its museum. At the tenth International Congress of Americans held in Stockholm in 1894, Mrs. Nuttall read a paper before King Oscar II. on "A Preliminary Note on the Ancient Mexican Calendar System." Mrs. Nuttall illustrates her Mexican researches by drawings made

anonymous Hispano-Mexican document. The original is preserved in the Biblioteca Nanotes and commentary under the title of "The Life of the Indians." It gives much information that is new and valuable. Mrs. Nuttall is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has been honored by membership in the leading scientific societies in the United States and Europe.



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